



First Monitoring Report July 2018



A survey of accommodation conditions on Traveller halting sites and group housing schemes in Galway City and County. 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



Galway Traveller Movement

#TRAVELLERHOMESNOW

“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

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“This reality – this lived hell - is having detrimental impacts on our health and wellbeing and on the rights of our children to thrive as equals. These substandard living conditions are a violation of our right to an adequate standard of living and to our internationally and nationally recognised right to culturally appropriate accommodation”

Angela Delaney, Carrowbrowne Resident



Foreword

The Traveller Community response to the lived reality of sub-standard, unsafe and unhealthy accommodation

#TravellerHomesNow is a resilient response to over 18 years of prevarication, failed targets and tokenistic interaction with the Traveller Community that has defined Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Planning.

Traveller Community Statement

"This reality – this lived hell - is having detrimental impacts on our health and wellbeing and on the rights of our children to thrive as equals. These substandard living conditions are a violation of our right to an adequate standard of living and to our internationally and nationally recognised right to culturally appropriate accommodation" Angela Delaney, Carrowbrowne Resident

The Galway Traveller Community is saying that enough is enough

The campaign sets out a progress monitoring timetable with clear indicators to measure progress in accommodation provision, quality, and conditions up to November 2019. These indicators are linked to human rights standards, as set out by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and domestic policy and law.

What is absolutely foundational to any chance of change, however, is a complete over-haul of the Traveller Accommodation Planning system. Accommodation has to be delivered by a specialist agency, independent of the local authority and removed from the bias of local politics.

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees (LTACC) as we know them are not working. Evidence shows that there is no overall political will to implement the provisions of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998.¹

Substandard Traveller accommodation and homelessness are enormous problems for the Traveller community.

Irish Traveller Movement data shows that almost 7,000 Travellers - nearly one in four Travellers living in the country - were either sharing housing or bays or living on unauthorized halting sites in 2016. Census 2016 shows that the rate of Traveller homelessness is almost 13 times that of the general population. And yet, there is no alternative.

Here in Galway, we had scenes during the summer of 2017 where families were threatened with eviction from the Cul Trá site because of overcrowding. Yet, where were these families expected to go? There have been no new developments of Traveller culturally appropriate accommodation in the city or county in the last 15 years.

We are concerned that the consistent failure to provide culturally appropriate accommodation is an unwritten yet systemic way to settle members of the Traveller community into social housing.

If good quality permanent halting sites are not being provided, if there is no provision for the nomadic cultural rights of my community, if the halting sites that are in place are unsafe, unhealthy and inhumane to live in, Travellers may feel that the only choice they have, for the sake of their family and their children, is to accept a house.

¹Finn, C. 2017 "The Provision of Traveller Accommodation and Traveller Participation in Local Government" Policy Brief, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Limerick.

It is important to stress that this is not culturally appropriate Traveller Accommodation Planning. This is planning that continues to promote structural inequality devoid of meaningful choices which show little respect for members of the Traveller community or cultural diversity. This approach to planning is being used to deny Traveller cultural identity and drive the narrative that Travellers want houses only. This is false and promotes an assimilationist approach to meeting the accommodation needs of my community.

Angela Delaney. Resident on the Temporary Halting Site, Carrowbrown, Headford Road.



Background to the Traveller Community Galway City and County

Quotes from Members of the Traveller community illustrating a dynamic, unique cultural identity.

"We are proud members of the Traveller community in Galway city and county. We know our culture with passion and with love" Kathleen Sweeney

"Our community has gone through very hard times. Going back to the Commission on Itinerancy of 1960, the Irish state has been trying hard to take our culture and identity away from us. We welcome the recognition of Traveller ethnicity after years of struggle. But it's still only a word from a mouth" Anne Marie McDonagh

"We know the terrible effects of racism and discrimination. We know what it feels like to be seen as outsiders in our own city, our own towns, our villages, our country. Right up to the highest levels of local and national government, those with the duty to recognise, protect and promote our human rights have failed to honour Travellers' basic right to a home. We are blamed for their failures. For many of us it is becoming harder to keep our hopes alive" Bridget Kelly

"All over Galway county and city, Travellers have been meeting and talking together in our halting sites, our kitchens, and our community halls. We have been sharing our hurt and our anger. We are becoming stronger in our courage and determination to speak out for our rights. In Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Athenry, Gort, Ballybane, Headford Rd, Doughiska and Westside, our Local Traveller Action Groups facilitated by Galway Traveller Movement have been organising for action." Anne Marie Roche

"Our purpose today is to share stories coming from the community so that Traveller voices are heard. We show the effects of discrimination in relation to Traveller accommodation. We highlight the unacceptable living conditions that many members of our community are forced to live in. We expose the violations of human rights perpetrated by local authorities and central government against our community, through their inaction as well as their actions." Joanna Corcoran

"Today we also honour the special knowledge and resistance of the Traveller community, and the strength we get from our culture. Whether we live in trailers or houses, we hold onto the precious knowledge of home we received from our parents, grandparents and extended families. We draw on this knowledge to keep our hopes for the future alive. As members of the Traveller community in Galway city and county, we take our place in the history of Travellers' fight for justice and equality". Kate Mongan

The Traveller Community are a recognised Irish minority ethnic group and have a long shared history. This recognition was formally conferred in March 2017 by a Fine Gael Led Government. While welcomed by members of the Traveller community in Galway it does not go far enough. The community in Galway believe that it is only a first step. Members of the Traveller community need stronger legal protection against racism, discrimination and hate crime.

Census 2016 has recorded that there are 2,647 members of the Traveller community living in Galway County and 1,598 members of the Traveller community living in Galway City. However the census figures are often underestimated.

Background to the #Traveller Homes Now Campaign and the first Galway Traveller Accommodation Inquiry

The Galway Traveller Accommodation Inquiry: The Real Stories took place on November 20th, 2017. The focus of the inquiry was to have conversations about the meanings of 'home' for members of the Traveller community. On the one hand, it involved inquiring about the diverse effects of living in conditions of overcrowding, homelessness and the denial of culturally appropriate accommodation etc. The inquiry addressed how these conditions are enabled by, and further deepen, a wider social patchwork of structural inequality, including institutionalised racism. On the other hand, the inquiry engaged with these conditions as an assault upon and violation of precious meanings of home for the Traveller community. It explored community members' knowledge of home, the histories of this cultural knowledge, their skills and practices in holding onto this knowledge, and keeping it alive against all odds. Of particular importance is how this resistance is sustained by nomadic histories of home. As well as fully acknowledging the devastating effects of state actions and failures, it is hoped that the stories will facilitate other community members to move from apathy or despair into conditions for hope i.e. memories and thoughts which inspire pride, agency and community togetherness and action.²

The Travellers' stories may also contribute to empowering other people going through hard times in Ireland and other parts of the world, and to galvanising the support and solidarity of other individuals and civil society groups locally, nationally and internationally for the campaign demands.

Campaign Goals

- Raising awareness of the rights violations and inequalities that the Traveller community experience in relation to their accommodation needs.
- Demanding action on these inequalities through a set of demands developed collectively by the Traveller community in Galway city and county.

Campaign Objectives

- Support Traveller leadership through community organising and activism in relation to Traveller accommodation issues.
- Develop demands and set indicators and targets through participatory processes with the Traveller community.
- Complete action research with and by the Traveller community to document right violations including homelessness, sub standard accommodation and the denial of Traveller's cultural right to culturally appropriate accommodation.
- Highlight Traveller accommodation issues including homelessness through narrative methods where the community are resilient active agents rather than victims.
- Alliance building with civil society groups locally, nationally and internationally.
- Use of creative campaigning methods including multimedia, film, photography and social media.

The Accommodation Inquiry was also used as a vehicle to publically launch the Galway Traveller Accommodation Campaign - #TravellerHomesNow using the Participation and Practice of Rights³ campaigning model. This model combines the practices of community work and human rights based approaches. With 18 years of failed targets members of the Traveller community wanted to show the violations of rights experienced by the community. The inquiry was a space where the Traveller community were the experts and they presented their experiences and a set of demands directed at the government. A panel of experts, including Traveller leaders, supported these demands. Narratives were collected using narrative practice and presented in a range of mediums; from testimonies, films and art. The issues and struggles which the community are facing were presented but also their stories of resistance and resilience were told with

passion. Galway Traveller Movement in association with National Traveller Women's Forum⁴ worked alongside the Galway Traveller Community to seek redress and call for full equality for members of the Traveller community

Background to Galway Traveller Movement

Galway Traveller Movement was set up as an independent organisation in 1994. It was established by Travellers and settled people in Galway with the ultimate aim to achieve equality and self-determination for the Traveller community in Galway city and county. GTM has advocated for improved conditions for Travellers in the areas of accommodation, health, education, enterprise and work, justice and rights for the past twenty four years.

Eliminating Structural Inequality

The Galway Traveller community and Galway Traveller Movement working in partnership are committed to campaigning for the elimination of structural inequality and demanding social change for the Traveller community. The embedding of human rights principles in community work practice is crucial to this process. A radical change in strategy is imperative for the realisation of Traveller rights. This strategy entails the convergence of community development practices with human rights based approaches. The Participation and the Practice of Rights group have used this strategy with success in Belfast and have strongly influenced the approach of Galway Traveller Movement's Realising Traveller Rights project.



²Siobhan Madden a Narrative practitioner worked with members of the Traveller community to gather their stories

³PPR Mission Statement- Participation and the Practice of Rights exists to facilitate and support the most marginalised groups to use a human rights based approach to change decision making relationships and improve the delivery of public services. <https://www.pprproject.org>.

⁴The National Traveller Women's Forum (NTWF) is the national network of Traveller women and Traveller women's organisations from throughout Ireland. The NTWF recognises the particular oppression of Traveller women in Irish society and are working to address this issue through the provision of opportunities to Traveller women to meet, share experiences, ideas and develop collective strategies and skills to work towards the enhancement of their position in society. Our ethnic status as members of the Traveller Community is the foundation on which all our work is built.

The Right to Accommodation /Housing the National and International Context

National Policy timeline

Report of the Commission on Itinerancy 1963 (assimilation)

The first time that Traveller accommodation issues were raised by the Government. The Terms of Reference of the Commission sought to resolve 'the problem arising from the presence in the country of Itinerants in considerable numbers' by assimilating Travellers into the settled society. The recommendations from the Commission relied heavily on accommodating Travellers in standard local authority housing.

56 Traveller families were accommodated in standard housing in 1960 and this figure grew to 957 families by 1980 (DOELG). The Commission did recognise that where there were insufficient numbers of houses or where families would not accept houses that 'serviced' campsites would be provided with water, sanitation and electricity together with short-stay 'unserviced' sites for highly mobile families (Commission on Itinerancy, 1963). By 1980, 384 families were accommodated in temporary serviced and unserviced sites and there was no substantive change in the number of families living on the roadside.

Report of the Travelling People Review Body 1983 – (Integration)

The Report of the Travelling People Review Body argued against a policy of assimilation or 'absorption' of Travellers into the settled community and instead suggested the 'integration' of the two communities. However it did not recognise Travellers as an ethnic group but implies that Traveller differences are 'choices' rather than cultural traditions or the basis for collective rights and ignores the role of structural inequalities in Traveller accommodation issues (Norris and Winston 2004). The Report did recommend the building of Group Housing schemes to allow for extended families to live together and from 1981 – 1990, 233 Traveller families were accommodated in Group Housing Schemes. The numbers of families living on the roadside again did not significantly decrease in this period of time.

Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community, 1995 (distinct identity)

The Task Force Report recognised that Travellers have a distinct identity that should be supported by public policy. The Report focused on issues such as discrimination, health, education, Traveller economy and accommodation. The Task Force Report recommended the provision of both standard housing and Traveller specific accommodation to include a network of transient sites to facilitate nomadism. The Report recommended the establishment of an National Traveller Accommodation Agency to oversee a national programme for Traveller accommodation but the government instead opted to legally oblige local authorities to draw up five year Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAP)

Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 (legal obligation)

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 brought about legislative responsibility for local authorities to ensure that the accommodation needs of Travellers were being met within their administration area. The act, in summary, required local authorities to consult with Travellers and Traveller groups through the operation of Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees (LTACCs). Additionally, the act allowed for public input into the preparation of any Traveller accommodation programmes (TAPs) and it stated the responsibility of local authorities to implement and amend any planning legislation when and where appropriate which took into consideration Traveller accommodation (Fahy, 2001).

NTACC - The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (NTACC)

NTACC was established, on a statutory basis, under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998. The terms of reference of the Committee are to advise the Minister in relation to;

any general matter concerning accommodation for Travellers; any matter referred to it by the Minister; the most appropriate measures for improving, at local level, consultation with, and participation of, Travellers in the provision and management of accommodation and general matters concerning the preparation, adequacy, implementation and co-operation of Traveller accommodation programmes.

LTACC - The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees (LTACC)

Their main objectives, under the Housing Act, are to act as a consultative and advisory mechanism on Traveller accommodation provision and to develop Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAPs) following on from the consultation process. The committees are required to advise on the best management of Traveller accommodation and also have adequate representation from both local authorities and the Traveller community on them. The Housing Act 1998 introduced a legal obligation for local authorities to establish five year TAPs to accelerate the provision of accommodation for Travellers in their local areas. To date there has been four Traveller Accommodation Programmes – TAP 2000-2004, TAP 2005-2008, TAP 2009-2013 and TAP 2014-2018.



International Human Rights Law and standards

The right to adequate housing is expressed and recognised in international human rights law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that:

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services ... (Art. 25(1))

The right to adequate housing is also included in other major international human rights treaties, for instance, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966). Countries which ratified this Covenant have the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil this right, as well as take steps, to the maximum of their available resources, to enable people to progressively realise it. This means that the government has to allocate as much of its budget as it can to

ensure that people can secure affordable, accessible, habitable and culturally appropriate accommodation and to improve people's living conditions gradually, year after year.

Progressive realisation is sometimes misinterpreted as saying that the government does not have to protect economic, social and cultural rights until they have sufficient resources. This is in fact not the case. Under the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, States have an immediate obligation to take appropriate steps towards the full realisation of rights such as the right to adequate housing. The government cannot justify not addressing housing issues because of not having enough money in the budget. It has to demonstrate that it is making every effort to improve access to adequate housing for people, at the very least, at a minimum level, especially for people in particularly difficult financial situations and people in positions of marginalisation.

In addition, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights prohibits discrimination with regard to the right to housing on the grounds of 'race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (Art 2(2)).' This means that governments have to ensure that no one is denied their right to adequate housing because of their ethnicity, skin colour or disability, for example.

There is no right to housing in Irish law. The right to housing should be enshrined in our constitution. A constitutional right to housing would, however, put in place a basic level of protection for members of the Traveller community and others in need.

According to CESCR General Comment No. 4: The Right to Adequate Housing (Art. 11 (1) of the Covenant) is determined in part by social, economic, cultural, climatic, ecological and other factors, the Committee believes that it is nevertheless possible to identify certain aspects of the right that must be taken into account for this purpose in any particular context. They include the following:

ACCESSIBILITY: Everyone should be able to access appropriate housing. This includes, for example, people with limited resources, people from minority communities, victims of natural disasters, older people and persons with disabilities.

AVAILABILITY: Occupants should be able to avail of certain facilities and infrastructure such as safe drinking water, sanitation and washing facilities, waste disposal and energy for cooking, heating, lighting and food storage.

AFFORDABILITY: The cost of housing should not prevent anyone from meeting other basic needs (for example, food, education, access to healthcare).

HABITABILITY: Adequate housing should provide for elements such as adequate space, protection from cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health, structural hazards, and disease.

LOCATION: Adequate housing must allow access to employment options, healthcare services, schools, childcare centres and other social facilities and should not be built on unsafe or polluted sites or too close to sources of pollution.

LEGAL SECURITY OF TENURE: Home owners, people in private rented accommodation, people living on halting sites, families and people renting rooms, as well as people living in other types of accommodation, should have some security of residence. Everyone should be legally protected against forced eviction, harassment and other threats.

CULTURAL ADEQUACY: Adequate housing should respect and take into account the expression of cultural identity and ways of life.⁵

⁵ CESCR General Comment No. 4: The Right to Adequate Housing (Art. 11 (1) of the Covenant). Adopted at the Sixth Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on 13 December 1991 (Contained in Document E/1992/23)

The Irish State ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in 1989. As of 2018, the Irish State has not changed the Irish constitution to include Economic, Social and Cultural rights or the right to housing. This does not mean, however, that it does not have to respect, protect and fulfill the rights contained in the Covenant but it makes it more difficult to hold the Irish State accountable to these commitments through the Irish Courts. Ongoing monitoring is happening at an international level, the Irish State reports to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights on how it fulfils its obligations. It has submitted 3 such reports so far. NGOs can send their concerns in the form of shadow reports to the Committee as well.

European human rights standards:

The right to adequate housing is also recognised in European human rights treaties, for instance, Council of Europe's Revised European Social Charter (1996), which states that: Everyone has the right to housing (Art. 31) and further explains that States which ratified it have an obligation to:

1. to promote access to housing of an adequate standard;
2. to prevent and reduce homelessness with a view to its gradual elimination; to make the price of housing accessible to those without adequate resources.

The Irish State ratified this Charter in the year 2000.

In response to a collective complaint lodged by the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)⁶, against the Irish Government, on May 2016 the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) concluded unanimously that the government has violated Article 16 of the Revised European Social Charter on the following grounds:

- provision of accommodation for Travellers remains insufficient;
- many Traveller sites are in an inadequate condition;
- Travellers continue to be evicted without the necessary safeguards.

There has been much commentary and assessment of Ireland's delivery on Traveller Accommodation from UN treaty monitoring bodies and European institutions. Recommendations have focused on improving access, the lack of sanction for non-delivery, the need to introduce binding measures to local authorities and also the need to review the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998 and also the Housing Act 2002.

A selection of comments and recommendations from international bodies demonstrates the lack of meaningful action by the Irish Government to meet the cultural accommodation needs of the Traveller community and are as follows:

"the fact that no sanctions are provided for in the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 against authorities who do not take measures to provide accommodation for Travellers may weaken its effectiveness."⁷

"The Committee recommends to the State party to strengthen its efforts to implement the policy advice offered by the National Traveller Monitoring and Advisory Committee. The State party should ensure that concrete measures are undertaken to improve the livelihoods of the Traveller community by focusing on improving students' enrolment and retention in schools, employment, access to healthcare, housing and transient sites."⁸

The Roma/ Gypsy and Traveller communities who wish to continue to lead a traditional nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle should have the opportunity, in law and in practice, to do so, by virtue of the freedom of movement and settlement guaranteed to all citizens of member states and the right to preserve and develop specific cultural identities."⁹

"ECRI strongly recommends that the authorities step up their efforts to involve local authorities in the implementation of the parts of the National Traveller/Roma Integration Strategy pertaining

to housing to meet the needs of the Travellers. In this connection, ECRI encourages the national authorities to envisage introducing measures binding on local authorities and to raise awareness among the general public of Traveller housing rights and promote respect thereof”¹⁰

“The implementation of the 1998 Traveller Accommodation Act, which aims at improving the rate of provision of accommodation for Travellers, is not satisfactory. It is regrettable that there are no plans to amend or review the law concerning trespass.” The report went on to recommend that the state “improve Traveller access to accommodation, including by means of awareness-raising on minority rights”.¹¹

“The Committee regrets the lack of progress in implementing its previous recommendations to amend the Housing Act of 2002.....The State party should take concrete steps amend the Housing Act of 2002 to meet the specific accommodation requirements of Traveller families.”¹²

“The Committee is also concerned at the lack of culturally appropriate accommodation provided to Travellers and Roma and of adequate legal protection of Traveller families at risk of eviction (art. 11). The Committee draws the State party’s attention to its general comments No. 4 (1991) on the right to adequate housing and No. 7 (1997) on the right to adequate housing: forced evictions..... The Committee also reiterates its previous recommendations (E/C.12/1/Add.77, paras. 32-33) that the State party take steps to provide Travellers and Roma with culturally appropriate accommodation in consultation with them and ensure that the funding allocated to Traveller housing at local level is fully and appropriately spent to this end.”¹³

In 2016, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights stressed the “urgency of addressing insufficient provision of Traveller-specific accommodation, inadequate conditions of many Traveller sites and inadequate safeguards against forced evictions”. He called on national authorities to ensure that local authorities spend the allocated Traveller accommodation budgets.¹⁴

“The Committee regrets that the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act of 1998 has not been revised in order to sanction authorities when they fail to take measures to provide accommodation for Travellers.....The State party should also consider revising the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act of 1993 in order to sanction authorities when they fail to take measures to provide accommodation for Travellers.”¹⁵

⁶ The Irish Traveller Movement collaborated with European Roma Rights Centre to lodge this complaint.

⁷ European Commission against Racism and Intolerance: Second Report on Ireland (23 April 2002)

⁸ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination March 2011

⁹ Preamble of Council of Europe Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the movement and encampment of Travellers in Europe, Rec (2004)14, (1 December 2004).

¹⁰ European Commission against Racism and Intolerance Report on Ireland (fourth monitoring cycle) 2013

¹¹ Resolution CM/ResCMN(2014)2 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Ireland (Third Cycle) February 2014

¹² Human Rights Committee’s concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Ireland under the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights July 2014

¹³ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Ireland (June 2015)

¹⁴ The Council of Europe’s Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muielnies conducted a three-day visit to Ireland in November 2016. His report is available here <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/1589c52019b049aa>.

¹⁵ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Ireland March 2017

Results from the Traveller Peer led Survey investigating the conditions on Galway city and county halting sites and group housing schemes

The survey, which was carried out with members of the Traveller community across 18 - sites and group housing schemes, shows 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.

The Galway Traveller Community used the PPR model – Participation and the Practice of Rights to inform this accommodation campaign. The PPR model combines community work and human rights based approaches. The initial Inquiry event gave space to members of the Traveller Community to present their lived experiences through testimonies, film and art. The subsequent survey has been carried out with the support and cooperation of the Traveller community and the reported conditions have been benchmarked against basic human rights standards. Members of the Galway Traveller Community have taken a lead role throughout the process. Their views and perspectives have been recorded.

The survey of accommodation conditions was carried out by members of the Traveller community supported by Galway Traveller Movement through site visits and the delivery of a standard questionnaire to Traveller families on the sites in Galway City and County. The families were asked to list their key accommodation issues, to outline what needs to change to realise improvement and then to identify three Priority Benchmarks for action. The survey took place between February and April 2018.

While this report focuses on accommodation conditions in Galway City and County, Galway Traveller Movement, through its contact with other Non Government Organisations and Traveller communities around the country, is concerned that the Traveller accommodation issues that it has documented are common throughout the vast majority of local authority areas.

These conditions include overcrowding and lack of privacy; damp, cold and mould; regular sewerage overflows; poor cooking facilities; rat and fly infestation; major structural damage; irregular, poor quality or no maintenance by the local authority landlords; irregular or no rubbish collections; poor or no facilities for the development of children and young people; poor or no participation in decisions about accommodation conditions, and a disregard for the statutory obligation to provide culturally appropriate accommodation.

In some cases, the violation is particularly acute – for example, overcrowding is a particularly serious problem at Cúl Trá and dangerous disease vectors from swarms of flies and rodent infestation is particularly alarming at Carrowbrowne Temporary site on the Headford Road. Posing a serious public health threat to the tenants, in particular the young children on the site. It is important to note that all Traveller families pay rent to Galway City and County Councils for the extremely poor accommodation provided to them.

Indicators and Time for Change

The benchmarks to measure what would constitute decent and acceptable accommodation standards by members of the Traveller Community have been derived from the surveys of conditions. The indicators and benchmarks are relevant to the two separate local authorities. The report looks at the indicators and sets out targets for reasonable and progressive improvement for Galway City and County Councils.

The indicators have been benchmarked against basic 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).

“that the right to housing should not be interpreted in a narrow or restrictive sense – with merely having a roof over one’s head. Rather, it should be seen as the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity. The right to housing and accommodation is integrally linked to other human rights and is central to the fundamental underpinning of those rights – “the inherent dignity of the human person.”

Galway Traveller Movement will continue to measure members of the Traveller community experience of the accommodation indicators set out in this report. A number of monitoring deadlines have been set for this continuous measurement process. GTM will report to both Galway City Council and Galway County Council on developments and will make the monitoring reports public. The Galway Traveller community are expecting a positive and progressive reversal of the current situation.

Finally, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states unequivocally that “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.

Unfortunately and sadly the families living on the different sites and group housing schemes in Galway City and County have identified 12 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). All areas visited had at least 2 breaches of the standards with up to 9 breaches in some areas. The record of where the local authority is in breach of human rights standards according to the Traveller families who responded to the survey is recorded under each site or group housing scheme. The breaches are listed below:

Breach 1

Traveller families reporting overcrowding

Human Rights Standard:

“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. CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (d)

Breach 2

Traveller families reporting serious structural faults and hazards with poor, irregular or no maintenance response.

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)

Breach 3

Traveller families reporting poor sanitation and washing facilities

“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)

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)

Breach 5

Traveller families reporting pest infestation – mice, rats, flies

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)

And

"...Housing should not be built on polluted sites or in immediate proximity to pollution sources that threaten the right to health of the inhabitants."

CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (f)

Breach 6

Traveller families who report difficulties with lighting, heating and cooking

"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."

CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (b)

Breach 7

Traveller families who report poor and inadequate facilities for children and young people

"Adequate housing must be in a location which allows access to employment options, healthcare services, schools, childcare centres and other social facilities."

CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (f)

And

"Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities."

UN Convention on the Right of the Child, Article 31

Breach 8

Traveller families who report irregular or no refuse disposal

"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."

CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (b)

Breach 9

Traveller families who are concerned about safety issues, barriers on sites and emergency access.

"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."

CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (b)

Breach 10

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.

“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.”

CESCR General Comment 4,
Paragraph 8 (g)

And

“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.”

CESCR General Comment Number 9. C paragraph 94

Breach 11

Number of Traveller families reporting sewerage invasions and smells

“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)

Breach 12

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

“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



Galway City Council Halting Sites and Group Housing Schemes Accommodation Survey Reports

Sites and group housing schemes visited (in alphabetical order)

1. Beal na Srutha
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
10. St Nicolas Permanent Halting site Doughiska

Priority Benchmarks for change for Current Sites and Group Housing Schemes

Galway City Council

1. Provide regular, quality and timely maintenance for structural defects and damage that has resulted from maintenance neglect over years.
2. Refurbish units and housing that are damp, wet, draughty and cold.
3. Replace and redevelop accommodation facilities that are dangerous, unhealthy and unfit for purpose – in particular the sheds at Carrowbrowne.
4. Provide intensive pest control on a regular basis.
5. Provide additional Traveller appropriate accommodation to ease the burden of overcrowding and to reduce the risk of homelessness amongst the Traveller community.
6. Provide facilities to allow children to play and learn and young people to study and develop.



1. BEAL NA SRUTHA, BALLYBANE

8 Units of Housing. Tenants: 15 adults and 20 children

Beal na Srutha group housing scheme, Ballybane Galway: consists of 6 units that are home to 7 adults and 7 children. All units are fully occupied.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Damp and cold - No insulation - Damp and mildew on the walls	Refurbishment of houses needed to deal with structural issues causing damp
Late or inadequate structural maintenance	Regular and Quality maintenance needed as a matter of urgency
No play area for children	Green or play space needed. Children's rights being denied
Cooking facilities - Ranges not working adequately	Access to cooking facilities required as a matter of urgency
Health and safety - No fire hose - No fire assembly point	Fire safety equipment paramount for safety

Priority Benchmarks for change

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.
2. Review of all the cooking facilities and ranges.
3. Immediate review of health and safety –
4. Play area for children developed

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.

2. CARROWBROWNE TEMPORARY SITE, HEADFORD ROAD

Tenants: 30 adults and 36 children

There are 15 families living on the Temporary Halting Site in Carrowbrowne. 30 Adults and 36 children are currently living on site. The families are living on this site since 2009. The 15 families have a stated a need for Traveller specific culturally appropriate accommodation. Galway City Council have not been able to meet this need and have applied for an extension of the planning permission for this site. In December 2013, An Bord Pleanála granted an extension of the planning permission by one year i.e. to December. Currently there is no planning permission on this site.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Rat, mice and fly infestation - Rats often found in belongings, in sinks and showers, food presses and other parts of the homes - Flies are constant - Windows and doors cannot be opened because of flies.	In immediate term, poison and traps should be laid and holes filled in to prevent rodents accessing family homes. Regular sprays should be carried out to deal with fly infestation.

<p>Sewerage and sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pipes for sinks, showers, washing machines constantly blocked up. - Toilets constantly blocked up - Water and sewerage comes up over the ground and through the bays. <p>Electricity and Heating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electricity erratic – goes off often leaving families without power. 	<p>Plumbing needs to be fixed completely.</p> <p>Immediate remedy for sewerage issues</p> <p>Power lines need to be fixed to end electricity difficulties</p>
<p>Structural Hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheds provided are a health hazard - Falling apart - Holes - Cracks in ceilings and walls - Windows broken and locks broken - Steel doors like prison doors 	<p>Sheds should be replaced</p>

Priority Benchmarks for change

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
2. Address immediate and ongoing infestation from rats, mice and flies.
3. Fix and replace the unsatisfactory sewerage system. A complete overhaul of the plumbing system and a review and investigation of the electricity supply.

Medium Term Priority

Close the temporary site and find suitable alternative culturally appropriate accommodation for families in Galway City.

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.



3. CARROWBROWNE TRANSIENT SITE, HEADFORD ROAD

Tenants: 29 adults and 39 children

The refurbishment of the Transient Halting Site was completed in early 2009 and 23 families initially moved in there. Some of the families who sought accommodation on the site then had only recently moved to the area. A huge piece of work commenced to ascertain housing need. All families demonstrated housing need at that juncture. Thus, in effect families who are residing on this site have a permanent need for accommodation and their need is not for transient accommodation. Currently there are 16 families who have a tenancy on the site.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Site unsuitable for permanent accommodation - Temporary site was intended for 2-3 weeks of accommodation. This has turned into 14 years	Transient site should either be used as a transient or refurbished and brought up to a standard as a permanent halting. Culturally appropriate accommodation should be provided for existing families
Rat, mice and fly infestation - Rats often found in belongings, in sinks and showers, food presses and other parts of the homes - Flies are constant - Windows and doors cannot be opened because of flies	In the immediate short term, poison and traps should be laid and holes filled in to prevent rodents accessing family homes. Regular pest controls should be carried out to deal with fly and rat infestations
Sewerage and sanitation - Pipes for sinks, showers, washing machines constantly blocked up - Toilets constantly blocked up - Water and sewerage comes up over the ground and through the bays Electricity and Heating - Electricity erratic – goes off often leaving families without power	The plumbing system needs to be overhauled Sewerage as a public health issue needs to be addressed Power lines need to be fixed to end electricity difficulties
Structural Hazards - Sheds provided are a health hazard - Falling apart - Holes - Cracks in ceilings and walls - Windows broken and locks broken - Steel doors like prison doors	Utility Sheds should be replaced. Along with the cracks in the internal and external walls sorted as a matter of urgency
No facilities for child development - No playground or green space - Unsafe surroundings	Green space and area for children to do homework should be reviewed and renovated

3 Priority Benchmarks for change

1. Identify in consultation with the families culturally appropriate accommodation that meets their longterm 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.

2. Address immediate and ongoing infestation from rats, mice and flies. A rubbish collection system needs to be regularised
3. Children's human rights need to be prioritised- the right to play, respect and dignity

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.

4. CLÓS NA CHOILE, BALLYBANE

Tenants: 11 adults and 11 children

This is a group housing consisting of 5 houses. All units are fully occupied. Major structural maintenance is required for this group housing scheme. Clós na Choile Ballybane group housing scheme was built 14 years ago.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Flooding and water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water leaking from the attic - Blocked gullies - Flooding outside house - Bubbles through concrete floor 	Major renovation needed - structural issues are causing unnecessary hardship
Damp and mould <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a result of excess water 	Immediate remedy needed
Sewerage and sanitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drains blocked causing sewerage back-up 	Public health issue. Immediate remedy needed
Heat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heating not working 	Immediate remedy needed

Priority Benchmarks for change

1. Sewerage system overhauled
2. Houses treated for damp and mould
3. Heating systems overhauled

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.

5. CUL TRÁ, SALTHILL

Tenants: 32 adults and 25 children

Cul Trá Halting site, Salthill was the last permanent halting site that was built in Galway 21 years ago. This Halting site is a 6 bay halting site. This site consists of 16 families and 25 children on site. There is serious overcrowding on Cul Trá Halting site due to GCC not addressing the projected need of Traveller specific accommodation for the young people living on Cul Trá for the last 21 years. Traveller families have a Traveller specific accommodation requirement.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Overcrowding - Health and safety being used as a reason to evict growing families of original tenants - No alternative accommodation available	Traveller specific accommodation needs to be provided to meet the accommodation needs of growing and changing families on the site
No facilities for children	Child friendly playground
No, poor or late maintenance of structural issues	Refurbishment of the site Timely and quality maintenance
Fire and safety - Below standard	Needs to be brought up to adequate and safe standard
No consultation	Consultation with tenants needed to plan for adequate and Traveller specific accommodation

3 Priority Benchmarks for change

1. Traveller specific accommodation to be provided to reduce forced overcrowding.
2. Refurbish existing site.
3. Fire and safety needs to be brought up to a safe standard on site.

Medium Term Priority

Provide Traveller appropriate accommodation for families on site to reduce overcrowding.

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.

6. FANA GLAS, BALLYBANE

Tenants: 6 adults and 5 children

Fana Glas group housing scheme Ballybane Galway city. This has 7 units but 4 occupied while three still vacant. There are currently 6 adults and 5 children living in this group housing scheme. Major refurbishment required to this group housing scheme. Issues of damp, mould and door and window repairs required to the 4 occupied units.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Damp and cold <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doors and windows not fitted – draughts Damp in houses 	Structural issues must be addressed Damp proofing needed
Cooking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty with ranges 	Immediate improvement needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration needed. The derelict nature of the site with 3 houses unoccupied cause great distress for the families living in the group housing scheme. Children living in subsatandard conditions 	The situation of leaving the group housing in this condition must end. It has gone on for too long

Priority benchmarks for change

1. Address the damp and mould.
2. Find alternative Traveller culturally appropriate accommodation for the families in the Ballybane area.
3. Develop play areas for the children

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.



7. TUAM ROAD

Tenants: 16 adults and 22 children

Tuam road permanent halting site Galway city is a 7 bay site. This is home to 16 adults and 22 children. It is at full occupancy. Very diverse site – 3 Bays have adult children sharing with parents. 4 Bays have very young children, 2 of which have 5 plus children. Due to lack of extensions on service bays for large families living on Tuam road halting site three families require transfers to standard housing.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Units inadequate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too small for families 	Extended and bigger units needed, particularly for bigger families
Privacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No privacy for adults or children and young people - children's rights denied 	Extended and bigger units needed to respect privacy
Health and safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooking areas too compact and close to living area – dangerous for children particularly Units have no backdoor 	Provide exits in case of an emergency

Priority benchmark for change

1. Extended and larger units to allow for privacy and adequate cooking and living facilities.
2. Install Fire exit door into the buildings at the back off the units.

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.



Ann Ward, Community Health Worker

8. CIRCULAR ROAD WESTSIDE GALWAY

Tenants: 6 Adults

This permanent halting site has 5 service bays in total, 3 bays occupied and two bays vacant. 6 adults currently living on this site. Serious refurbishment required for this site.

Currently being developed

9. ST NICHOLAS PARK GROUP HOUSING SCHEME

Tenants: 13 adults and 14 children

There are 3 large families living in this group housing scheme. They are 4 bedroomed small scale houses with a large back yard. The Traveller families living in the Doughiska area were some of the first families living in the area before any development was planned for the area. In spite of this fact the families are still some of the most poorly accommodated families in the area families with all 3 houses in need of refurbishment. There are 6 families in total.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Overcrowding- several families sharing a space which is not suitable for family sizes. Parents/ children sleeping on floors. Reflective of the hidden homeless problem	Culturally appropriate accommodation needed. Accommodation needs to reflect actual family size. Children's clothes/toys stored outside in bins/shed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No regular maintenance - common complaints are broken showers/ toilet fixtures, blocked drainage	Regular maintenance needed. As rent payers, families are entitled to this
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rats present in yards	In immediate term, poison and traps should be laid and holes filled in to prevent rodents accessing family homes

3 Priority Benchmarks for change

1. Traveller specific accommodation to be provided to reduce forced overcrowding/hidden homeless.
2. An immediate review of the conditions .Structural problems addressed as a matter of urgency.- Drainage, window replacement, insulation
3. Address rodent problem

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 and 5, 12.

10. ST NICHOLAS PERMANENT HALTING SITE DOUGHISKA GALWAY CITY

TENANTS: 6 Adults and 11 children

This permanent halting site is a 5 bay site. This site is currently home to 3 families and a single occupant St Nicholas park permanent site was built 25 years ago. St Nicholas park site requires that the units are made bigger with allowance for plumbed mobile homes. 3 of the Families are seeking alternative accommodation. 2 of the Bays have been lying empty for some time, despite repeated requests from Traveller families to be allowed to move in.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overcrowding- space is not suitable for family sizes. Parents/children sleeping on floors. Children's clothes/toys stored outside in bins/shed 	Culturally appropriate accommodation needed. Accommodation needs to reflect actual family size
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural damage leading to mould and damp. Large areas of plaster falling off walls 	Structural maintenance needed. Housing standards should be maintained.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No regular maintenance - common complaints are broken showers/ toilet fixtures, blocked drainage 	Regular maintenance needed. As rent payers, families are entitled to this
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very cold- inadequate insulation, wind comes in around the window panes 	Site should be brought up to present day standards for insulation, etc

Priority Benchmarks for change

1. Traveller specific accommodation to be provided to reduce forced overcrowding/hidden homeless.
2. Regular and quality structural maintenance prioritised – insulation, drainage, damp and mould
3. Timely and quality maintenance of site issues.

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.

Galway County Council Site by Site Accommodation Reports

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

Priority Benchmarks for change for Current Sites and Group Housing Schemes

Galway County Council

- Provide regular, quality and timely maintenance for structural defects and damage that has resulted from maintenance neglect over years.
- Refurbish units and housing that are damp, wet, draughty and cold.
- Provide more serviced bays on sites experiencing overcrowding.
- Provide intensive pest control on a regular basis.
- Remove barriers or provide key or code to residents.
- Provide facilities to allow children to play and learn and young people to study and develop

Galway County Council Sites



Kate Mongan , GTM Community Health Worker

1. BALLYDAVID ATHENRY

Tenants: 12 adults and 18 children

Ballydavid is a Group Housing Scheme located on the Monivea Road a mile outside Athenry Town. There are a total of six houses in the Group Housing Scheme and all are occupied.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
No street lighting outside group housing scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dark- Safety hazard	Erect street lighting

Priority benchmarks for change

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

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.

2. CANAL DRIVE, BALLINASLOE

Tenants: 12 adults and 4 children

Canal Drive is a Group Housing Scheme located in the town of Ballinasloe. It is the only form of Traveller specific accommodation in Ballinasloe despite Ballinasloe having a large Traveller population – 514 Travellers counted in the 2016 Census. There are four houses in Canal Drive and the houses are all currently occupied.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Inadequate or no structural maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Windows- Doors- Cooking facilities	Timely and quality maintenance

Priority benchmarks for change

1. Timely, quality structural maintenance.

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.

3. CAPIRA, PORTUMNA

Tenants: 10 adults and 11 children

Capira is a Halting Site situated three miles outside Portumna Town in an isolated rural location. There are 4 bays in the site. Until very recently only one of the units had electricity and running water. Refurbishment works are currently being carried out on two units on the sites with funding being sought to refurbish the remaining two units.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Site completely inadequate	Redevelopment of the site
No or inadequate basic services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sanitation - Heating - Electricity 	Redevelopment of the site
Inadequate Serviced Bays for demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sanitation - Heating 	Development of new serviced bays
No safe space for children - children's rights denied.	Green space / safe space for children to play.
Barrier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No access for emergency services 	Remove barrier or allow residents access to barrier.

Priority benchmarks for change.

1. Redevelopment of the site into a fully serviced one. New serviced bays
2. Green space for children
3. Address security and safety issues re lack of access to barrier

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.



4. CLOONLYON CRESCENT AND CLOONLYON, BALLYGAR

Tenants: 18 adults and 10 children

Cloonlyon Crescent and Cloonlyon are two Group Housing Schemes located a mile outside Ballygar Town. There are ten Group Houses and two of the houses are vacant and have been for a number of years. The Group Housing Schemes are separated by a wall and have separate entrances. The Group Housing Scheme was built on an old halting site.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
No, late or inadequate structural maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gaps in window frames - Insulation - Doors 	Structural and Quality of life issues reviewed
Sewerage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drains blocked - Septic tank overflows regularly 	Sewerage issues addressed as a matter of public health
No upkeep of green areas	Immediate cutting of the green area Greater consideration for children's play areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very poor estate management - Very little tenants supports in place - Poor response to complaints made to Council re estate management issues. - Supports for conflict resolution needed 	Estate management issues to be taken seriously Interagency work needed on anti Traveller attitudes in the town

3 Priority Benchmarks for change

1. Structural maintenance carried out as a matter of urgency
2. Sewerage system reviewed and works carried out immediately
3. Maintenance of green spaces or provision of green space.

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.

5. CRAUGHWELL

Tenants: 16 adults and 19 children

Craughwell is a Permanent Halting Site located a mile outside the village of Craughwell. There are six bays and all are currently occupied. There was a community building on the site but it is in a state of disrepair. The families on the site have been waiting for the site to be redeveloped for the past twelve years and plans have been part of Traveller Accommodation Programmes over the years. In 2018, planning permission has been granted to proceed with redeveloping the site. The six bay site will become a Group Housing Scheme with six houses and two halting site bays – bringing about an increase in two units of Traveller specific accommodation for Craughwell.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Promised houses not delivered – failed promises and commitments	Site needs to be redeveloped as promised
No structural maintenance being carried out on units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doors damaged - Windows damaged and won't close - Holes in ceiling 	Maintenance of structural issues needs to be carried out in a timely manner so that conditions do not continue to worsen beyond repair
Inadequate basic sanitation and washing facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bathrooms not fit for use in units - No baths - Steel sinks only - Toilet leaking - Unit too cold for washing 	Immediate repairs and upgrade needed. The conditions are substandard
Heating and warmth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No heating in units 	The conditions are substandard – upgrade required
Inadequate cooking facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Range not working 	The conditions are substandard – upgrade required
Overcrowding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One trailer allowed in each bay only 	Traveller culturally appropriate accommodation needs should be taken into consideration, including the need for appropriate space and safety supports for additional trailers, space for horses, or for maintenance of livelihood – eg. scrap metal
Health and Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barriers means emergency services can't access site - Rubbish being dumped at the site entrance 	Remove barriers and clear rubbish being dumped by others Modern and up to date systems for access needed
Inadequate facilities for child development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No play area, no green space - No quiet space to do homework or study 	Include proper green space for children in site redevelopment Provide space for homework and study in redevelopment Traveller children's rights need to be protected

Priority Benchmarks for change

1. Redevelopment of the site
2. Maintenance of structural defaults on time
3. End overcrowding

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.

6. CREGGANE, BALLINASLOE

Tenants: 36 adults and 28 children

Creggane is a group housing scheme located 3 miles outside Ballinasloe town. There are seven houses and all are currently occupied. There are also a number of families sharing accommodation in Creggane due to a lack of Traveller specific accommodation options.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Poor quality or no maintenance of structural issues	Improved maintenance – quality standard and on time
Damp and Cold <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health concerns particularly for children 	Improved maintenance – quality standard and on time
Barriers locked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot get in or out of group housing scheme because of barrier Emergency services cannot get on to site 	Access to keys for barriers
Overcrowding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children forced to stay on the site because of homelessness 	Access to culturally appropriate accommodation
Rent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High rent for poor accommodation Unable to access tenant purchase 	Review of rents Improved quality of accommodation Introduction of tenant purchase

3 Priority Benchmarks for change

1. Improved maintenance – quality standard and on time.
2. Review of rents for poor and substandard accommodation.
3. Access to keys for barriers. Modern access systems need to be put on place.

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.

7. GORT BRIDGE, LOUGHREA

Tenants: 12 adults and 4 children

Gort Bride is a Group Housing Scheme located on the outskirts of Loughrea town. There are seven houses and all are currently occupied.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Cold and damp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Windows - Insulation - Leaking pipes, sinks 	Timely structural repairs and maintenance needed as a matter of urgency to address substandard conditions
Rat infestation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yards infested with rats 	Timely rubbish collection and skip Regular rent a kill needed to deal with infestation
Barriers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No key to site barrier - Emergency services cannot access site - Discrimination, settled communities are not barriered in - CCTV cameras an invasion of privacy - Boulders outside scheme 	Key to barrier Remove boulders Remove CCTV that is invading tenants privacy
Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No play area for children - children's rights being denied 	Green space or play area for child development
Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No street lighting at entrance - No traffic calming on busy road - People with disability negatively impacted - needs immediate resolution 	Street lighting to be erected Pedestrian crossing needed Footpaths needed immediately

4 Priority Benchmarks for change

1. Structural maintenance issues should be addressed as a matter of urgency.
2. Street lighting and traffic calming on the road outside. Disability access issues dealt with.
3. Key to the barrier and access for safety
4. Children Play area

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.

8. SANDYMOUNT, KILLIMOR

Tenants: 6 adults and 3 children

Sandymount is a Group Housing Scheme located in Killimor. There are three houses and all are currently occupied.

Accommodation Issues	Improvements Needed
Structural issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Windows and doors inadequate and need replacing- Cracks and holes in the ceiling- Some windows won't open – poor ventilation and safety hazard- Pipes old	Structural improvement and maintenance
Damp and cold <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Heating system old and not working properly- Poor ventilation	Dampness caused by structural problems to be addressed

Priority Benchmarks for Change

1. Structural issues to be addressed, in particular damp and heating.
2. Immediate and regular maintenance.

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.

Conclusion

Each site and group housing has set benchmarks for change. The Traveller community on each site and group housing will be following up on progress on a quarterly basis. These reports will be made public. We are asking Irish society to stand in solidarity with the Traveller community and support the #TravellerHomesNow Campaign.



#TravellerHomesNow campaign team



Maria Joyce, coordinator of the National Traveller Women's Forum



Community Work World Conference ; Indigenous people of the world support #TravellerHomesNow campaign

#TRAVELLERHOMESNOW

Galway Traveller Movement

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