

TRAVELLER HOMES NOW

MONITORING AND PROGRESS REPORT

MAY 2019

TRAVELLER HOMES
 NOW

#TRAVELLERHOMESNOW



Galway Traveller Movement

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INTRODUCTION TO THE TRAVELLER HOMES NOW SECOND MONITORING AND PROGRESS 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. Galway Traveller Movement 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. The Galway Traveller Movement 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 progress 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. Members of the Traveller community collected data for this second monitoring and progress report between January and May. A questionnaire was developed using the benchmarks which tenants had identified for the initial monitoring report. Peer researchers recorded if there had been any progress in meeting these benchmarks for change and also recorded tenants own advocacy efforts and the respective Council’s responses. It assesses progress between July 2018 to May 2019.

This report is a follow up to the ‘First Monitoring Report July 2018’ which gathered baseline data on the standard of Traveller specific accommodation in Galway and highlighted the substandard conditions across the city and county. It was a Traveller peer led survey which was carried out by members of the Traveller community which covered a total of eighteen halting sites and group housing schemes across Galway City and County. It documented the breaches of 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.¹

¹ Galway Traveller Movement (2018), ‘First Monitoring Report July 2018’, Galway: Galway Traveller Movement, accessible: www.gtmtrav.ie.

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.



2017

The campaign was publicly launched on November 20th at the Galway Traveller Accommodation Inquiry: The Real Stories. 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.

2018

On February 2nd Damien English, Minister at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government with special responsibility for Housing and Urban Development visited Galway. Members of the Traveller community presented on the Traveller accommodation crisis and the Community Demands to address the crisis. The Minister also visited several sites to view the reality of the Traveller accommodation crisis first hand.

The peer led survey was conducted between January to June gathering data on the conditions on the sites and group housing schemes and recorded benchmarks for change developed by members of the Traveller community.



This results from this survey formed the baseline data contained in the initial monitoring report. This report was launched in July in the Centre for Human Rights NUI Galway. This report highlighted the substandard conditions that the Traveller community are living in across 18 Traveller specific accommodation sites in Galway City and County. There was extensive media coverage for the event both locally and nationally.

In August 2018 GTM made a presentation to the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (NTACC) in Galway County Council chambers highlighting the accommodation issues

negatively impacting on the Traveller community in Galway city and county. GTM called for immediate remedy for an emergency situation in the Carrowbrowne area. There was no response at a national or local level.

In 2018, GTM developed a submission to the Traveller Accommodation Expert Review Group which was established by Minister Damien English to review the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998, and other legislation that impacts the provision and delivery of accommodation for Travellers. GTM also attended a consultation of the Expert Group to feed into their recommendations to Minister English.



2019

The findings of the first Monitoring Report were discussed at Local Traveller Action Groups across the city and the county. Members of the Traveller community collected data for this second monitoring and progress report between January and May. As part of the campaign all local representatives from Galway City and County Council have been forwarded the report and meetings have been requested to discuss its findings. The report has also been forwarded to all Galway West and Galway East TDs some of whom have attended meetings to discuss the findings. The report has also been circulated to all relevant Ministers including Minister Murphy, for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Minister English, for Housing and Urban Development, Minister Flanagan for Justice

and Equality, Minister Stanton for Justice and Minister Zappone for Children and Youth Affairs. The report was also circulated to relevant Council officials in Galway City and County Councils.

Members of the Traveller community have also been active in local organising as part of the Raise the Roof campaign. Bridget Kelly, Deputy Coordinator for Galway Traveller Movement spoke at the Galway Raise the Roof demonstration on April 8th. GTM also promoted an equality focus in the 2019 Local Elections through engaging with candidates to sign up to European Network Against Racism Ireland's Anti Racism Election Protocol. GTM also engaged with local candidates on their position on equality issues including Traveller accommodation.

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 Monitoring Report. 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>“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.”</p> <p>CESCR General Comment 4, Paragraph 8 (d)</p>	<p>The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998) places a duty on Local Authorities to “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,” 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>“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.”</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	HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD	NATIONAL STANDARD
Traveller families reporting poor sanitation and washing facilities	<p>“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.”</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’ (Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998), Section 31).</p> <p>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.’</p> <p>Section 26, Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998).</p>
BREACH 4	HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD	NATIONAL STANDARD
Traveller families reporting damp, mould and cold	<p>“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.”</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 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 & 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 ‘<i>including water, toilets and waste removal</i>’ as detailed in the ‘<i>Guidelines on Basic Services and Facilities for Caravans</i>’ ‘<i>pending the provision of suitable permanent accommodation</i>’</p> <p>(Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998), Section 31) Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act (1998);</p> <p><i>‘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.’</i></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 ‘<i>to refrain from taking any measures that inhibit nomadism, but places a positive obligation to provide the necessary services to facilitate nomadism</i>’. It also states ‘<i>Regard must also be had to the need for transient sites</i>’</p> <p>- Section 19, Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998.</p>

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

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.

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 PERMANAENT HALTING SITE, DOUGHISKA

BEAL NA STRUTHA

PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE

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

2. Review of all the cooking facilities and ranges

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

4. Play area for children developed

No progress

There has been no progress in relation to these issues. Tenants highlighted ongoing issues in terms of damp due to the lack of insulation. A range has been repaired but it is not working properly. Other routine maintenance has not been addressed.

Tenants have been in contact with the Council and also with TDs in relation to these issues. Council staff have visited to inspect the properties but works have not been carried out thus far.

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

There has been no progress in relation to the issues identified by tenants. Tenants highlight ongoing issues including sewerage problems, structural hazards of sheds and rat infestations.

Tenants have made several complaints both to the site caretaker and to a Council engineer since the first Monitoring Report in July 2018. They have not received a satisfactory response. Council staff have visited the site to examine the sheds however no action has been taken thus far.

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 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
2. Address immediate and ongoing infestation from rats, mice and flies. A rubbish collection system needs to be regularised	No progress
3. Children's human rights need to be prioritised- the right to play, respect and dignity	No progress

There has been no progress in relation to the issues identified by tenants. The structural issues remain a serious concern. Tenants have identified the electric wiring as a health and safety and fire hazard. This is particularly a concern as there are no fire extinguishers on the site. The sewerage is also a health hazard. Immediate action is needed to replace the sheds which are not fit for purpose.

Tenants have contacted the Council several times since the first Monitoring Report – they have complained to the site caretaker, to a Council official who visited the site and have made phone calls to the Council. The tenants expressed a hopelessness as they felt no one listens. They have been told their complaints have been recorded but no action has taken place.

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 TO DATE
1. Sewerage system overhauled	No progress
2. Houses treated for damp and mould	Limited progress
3. Heating systems overhauled	Limited progress

Maintenance has been carried out on some of the houses but not all. Tenants have contacted the Council to report these issues. They have also been in touch with Councillors and TDs in relation to these issues.

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 TO DATE
1. Traveller specific accommodation to be provided to reduce forced overcrowding	No progress
2. Refurbish existing site	Limited progress
3. Fire and safety needs to be brought up to a safe standard on site	Limited progress

There has been no progress in relation to addressing overcrowding on the site or consultation with the families in relation to alternative culturally appropriate accommodation. No major structural issues have been addressed however there has been some maintenance on the site: range repaired, some electrical repairs, potholes filled, gullies fixed, new locks on barriers and rat traps put down. A Council official has said they will request new doors and windows. Fire safety training has been delivered however there are still numerous fire and safety issues. Electric wires are still a hazard and the site is still severely overcrowded. Fire and Safety remains a major concern for the tenants.

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 TO DATE
1. Address the damp and mould	No progress
2. Find alternative Traveller culturally appropriate accommodation for the families in the Ballybane area	No progress
3. Develop play areas for the children	No progress

Tenants have continued to highlight these issues to the Council through phone calls. Council officials have visited the site however the issues have not been addressed.

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 TO DATE
1. Extended and larger units to allow for privacy and adequate cooking and living facilities.	No progress
2. Install Fire exit door into the buildings at the back off the units.	No progress
<p><i>Overcrowding remains an issue on the site. There is a need to refurbish the site and extend the current units. The tenants also highlighted maintenance issues which had not been resolved. In relation to fire safety they also noted that the fire hoses were currently not working, an issue which has also been reported to the Council.</i></p> <p><i>Tenants have contacted the Council by phone, in person and by reporting complaints to the site caretaker.</i></p>	

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

No redevelopment to date, in proposal stage.

ST NICHOLAS PARK GROUP HOUSING SCHEME, DOUGHISKA

PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE	PROGRESS TO DATE
1. Traveller specific accommodation to be provided to reduce forced overcrowding/ hidden homeless	No progress
2. An immediate review of the conditions. Structural problems addressed as a matter of urgency - drainage, window replacement, insulation	No progress
3. Address rodent problem	No progress

Overcrowding continues to be an issue. Conditions in the houses remain substandard. The lack of proper insulation and heating is causing damp and mould which is having a negative impact on the health of the tenants. Rent a kill has still not been approved to address rodent problem.

Tenants have frequently called the Council and sent several letters in relation to these issues. Council staff have taken photos of the conditions but repairs have not taken place. An engineer has also visited one house with the Council stating that insulation would be fitted in late 2018 or early 2019 however works have yet to take place.

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 TO DATE
1. Traveller specific accommodation to be provided to reduce forced overcrowding/ hidden homeless	No progress
2. Regular and quality structural maintenance prioritised – insulation, drainage, damp and mould	No progress
3. Timely and quality maintenance of site issues	Limited progress

There is still overcrowding on the site. Structural issues have not been addressed. A tenant has fitted their own insulation to try to address the damp and mould. Some routine maintenance has been done such as the glass in one window replace and a toilet repaired however other issues like a broken sink and broken light fixtures have not been repaired. Drainage remains a problem on the site. The one fire hose on the site cannot reach into all the bays.

The tenants have communicated these issues to the site caretaker and to Council officials in person and through phone calls. A Council official came to the site to take photographs but no action has been taken to address the structural 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.

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 TO DATE
1. Erect street lighting on the road outside the group housing scheme.	No progress

Council officials visited the group housing scheme in March but no action has been taken since.

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 TO DATE
1. Timely, quality structural maintenance	No progress

There has been no progress in addressing these maintenance issues.

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 TO DATE
1. Redevelopment of the site into a fully serviced one. New serviced bays	Limited progress
2. Green space for children	No Progress
3. Address security and safety issues re lack of access to barrier	No Progress

The site is currently being refurbished with two units now completed. The refurbishment of the third unit is planned to be underway soon. The Council has applied for funding for the construction of the final unit.

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 TO DATE
1. Structural maintenance carried out as a matter of urgency	No Progress
2. Sewerage system reviewed and works carried out immediately	No Progress
3. Maintenance of green spaces or provision of green space.	No Progress

There has been no progress on any of the issues recorded in the initial monitoring report. The structural maintenance or issues with the sewerage system have not been resolved. One house has no running water. Light fixtures are also broken. The lack of proper insulation in all houses remains a problem.

Some tenants have called the Council to highlight these issues while others are no longer logging complaints as the Council have not addressed these issues for so long.

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 TO DATE
1. Redevelopment of the site	Limited progress
2. Maintenance of structural defaults on time	Limited progress
3. End overcrowding	No progress

The tender for the redevelopment of the site has been submitted to the Department for approval. Some repairs have taken place although a ceiling that was repaired is leaking again. Structural issues including holes in roof and windows have not been addressed. Tenants fitted a door for the hut themselves and one refurbished a bathroom. There is still overcrowding on the site as tenants are only allowed to have one trailer which does not sufficiently cater for families' needs

Council officials have visited the site and taken photographs however repairs have not taken place. Fire safety training has taken place and fire extinguishers delivered and assembly point set up. The Council is currently awaiting approval of the tender for the redevelopment of 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 TO DATE
1. Improved maintenance – quality standard and on time.	Limited progress
2. Review of rents for poor and substandard accommodation	Limited progress
3. Access to keys for barriers. Modern access systems need to be put on place	No progress

The Council have applied for funding to carry out a refurbishment of 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, 4, 9, 12.

GORT BRIDGE, LOUGHREA

PRIORITY BENCHMARKS FOR CHANGE	PROGRESS TO DATE
1. Structural maintenance issues should be addressed as a matter of urgency.	Limited progress
2. Street lighting and traffic calming on the road outside. Disability access issues dealt with.	No progress
3. Key to the barrier and access for safety	No progress
4. Children's Play area	No progress

Some maintenance has taken place however overall structural maintenance or safety issues have not been addressed. Insulation has been fitted in one house.

Tenants have been in touch with the Council and Councillors in relation to these issues.

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 TO DATE
1. Structural issues to be addressed, in particular damp and heating.	No progress
2. Immediate and regular maintenance.	No progress

There has been no progress in addressing the structural issues or maintenance issues. The risk to health for tenants has been highlighted to the Council over a number of years.

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
1. Lack of access to basic facilities - basic sanitation services like running water, toilets or showers	Basic facilities provided in the interim
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 are found to be in breach of their obligations under International Human Rights standards 3, 7, 10.

CONCLUSION

The lack of urgency to remedy or redress the substandard conditions on Traveller halting sites and group housing schemes in Galway City and County is unacceptable. The lack of substantive progress is far too slow. Some families are living in the same dire conditions for decades and have expressed feelings of hopelessness. They have little confidence that there will be any meaningful changes in their living conditions now or in the future.

This lack of progress violates people's right to respect and dignity, a fundamental human right.²

The findings highlight ongoing discrimination experienced by the Traveller community in the area of accommodation. Evidence of this discrimination has also been demonstrated through IHREC and ESRI's research and the Council of Europe's ruling. See extracts below.

The Traveller Homes Now campaign will continue to raise awareness of the rights violations and inequalities that the Traveller community experience in relation to their accommodation needs not being met. The campaign demands action to address these inequalities.

Each site and group housing scheme has set benchmarks for change and will continue to highlight the lack of progress and hold duty bearers to account.

A 2018 report by IHREC and ESRI found that the Traveller community are the most at risk of being homeless while also experiencing the highest levels of discrimination: they are almost ten times as likely to report discrimination in access to housing. The quality of accommodation was also highlighted as an issue with Fifty-six per cent of Travellers experiencing overcrowding compared to just 9 per cent of the non-Traveller Community. Over one-in-three Travellers reported living in 'very unhealthy' and 'very unsafe' homes.³

The Irish State is still in violation of the Council of Europe's 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.

² Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

³ Grotti et al (2018), 'Discrimination and Inequality in Housing in Ireland June 2018', Dublin: IHREC and ESRI.

“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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