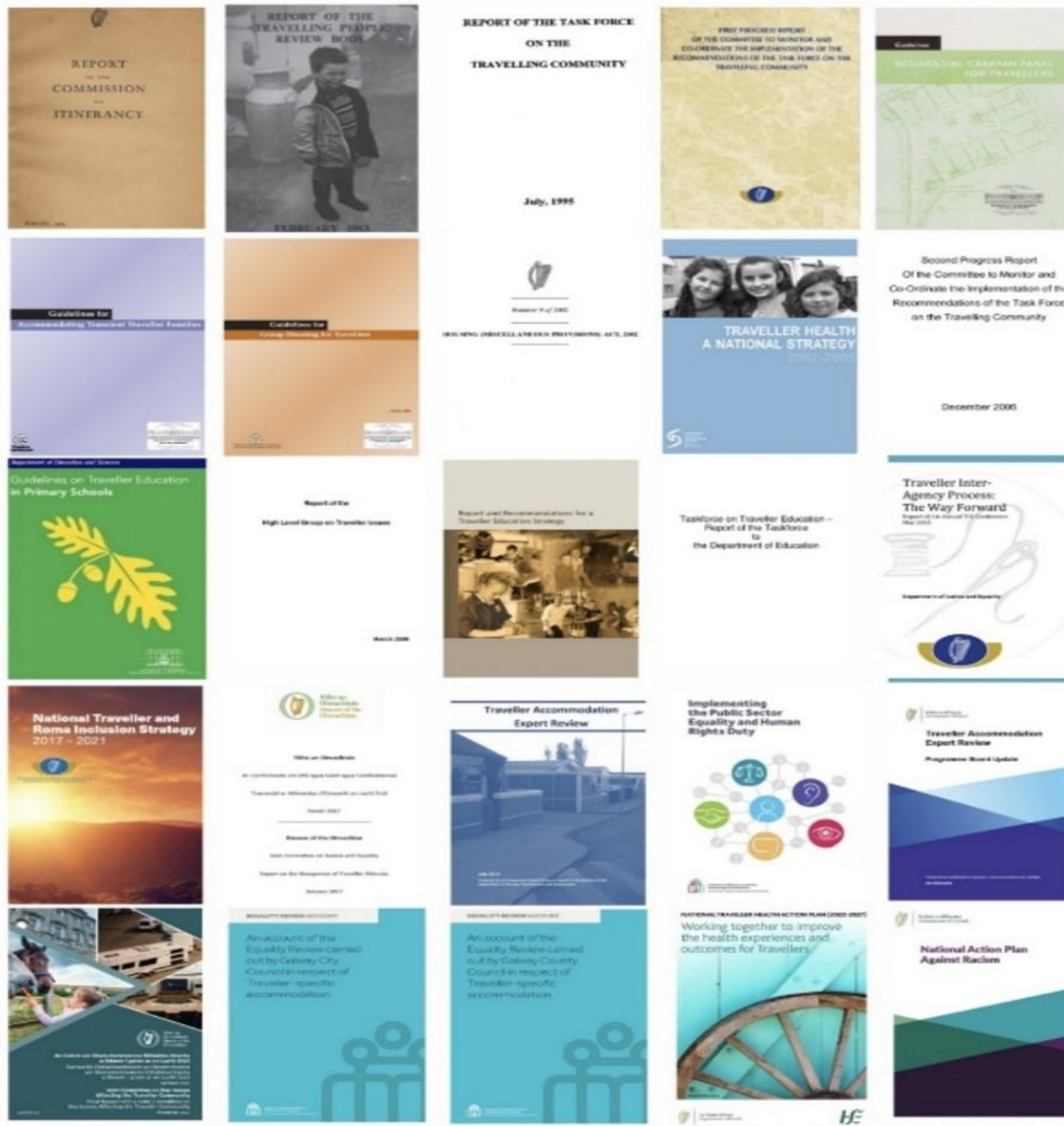


GTM Annual Report 2023

Claiming Space -Realising Rights for the Traveller Community



1963

2023

**We deserve better -
End discrimination now**

Table of contents

1. Introduction and context	2
2. GTM Values and Strategic Areas of Work	4
3. Participation and Practice of Rights (PPR).....	4
4. 2023 Annual action plan – strategic areas of importance	Error! Bookmark not defined.
1. ENTERPRISE AND WORK.....	5
2. HEALTH.....	7
3. ACCOMODATION	11
4. EDUCATION.....	12
5. CULTURE AND HERITAGE	12
6. RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION.....	17
7. UNDERPINNING ALL WORK.....	17



THE “LIVED EXPERIENCE” A LEGACY OF DISCRIMINATION



The Galway Traveller Community and Galway Traveller Movement invite key stakeholders to a Roundtable event calling for a whole of Government Response to the Traveller Accommodation Crisis. The Traveller community and Civil Society will highlight 6 decades of failed policies that stem from the Report of the Commission. of Itinerancy, 1963.

INVITATION

DATE

MONDAY JUNE
19TH 2023

VENUE

THE CUBE
Áras Na Mac Léinn,
University of Galway

TIME

2.00PM -
5.00PM

Rsvp to Email: norac@gtmtrav.ie | Tel: 089 2501089

Introduction and context

Galway Traveller Movement was established in 1994. GTM is an independent Traveller organisation for Galway City and County made up of Travellers and non-Travellers. We have worked for more than two decades to challenge and respond to the structural inequalities that the Traveller community are subjected to. Our work has always been rooted in an understanding of and respect for the distinct culture and ethnic identity of the Traveller community. GTM's strategic plan continues that tradition but goes further in seeking action on foot of the official recognition of Traveller ethnic identity. It is important that this official recognition is translated into tangible improvements in the situation and experience of the Traveller community.

VISION

Full equality, social justice and human rights realised for members of the Traveller community, and meaningful participation of Travellers in social, economic, political and cultural life.

MISSION

To challenge discrimination and racism experienced by the Traveller community in Galway city and county; to challenge the status quo and to empower members of the Traveller community to take action to realise Traveller rights.

Company Profile/Overview

Company Name: Galway Traveller Movement CLG

CRO Number 227975

Registered Charity Number 20108496

Registered Office: Unit 1, The Plaza, Headford Road, Galway.

GTM Directors and Coordinators as of the 31st of December 2023:

Declan Brassil	Chairperson
Ann Costello	Company Secretary
Laura Newell	Director
Ann Lyons	Director
Bridget Kelly	Director
Colie Sweeney	Director
Joint Coordinators	Martin Ward, Margaret Ó Riada
Financial Manager	Regina Faherty

GTM would like to thank and acknowledge the Traveller community who have supported the work in 2023 and all our funders who contributed and enabled GTM to be a resource for the Traveller community in Galway City and Southeast Galway. A full list of our funders is available in the company's audited accounts for 2023.

Context for the GTM Annual Report 2023

The fundamental priority for GTM in 2023 continues to be the mobilisation of the community, in order to build a grassroots movement that challenges the inequities experienced by the Traveller community. One of the highlights was the visit in September from the Council of Europe committee on the Framework convention on the protection of National minorities. The Traveller community, GTM directors and the GTM staff team recognise the potential of working with the committee on an ongoing basis in order to influence change. A report was compiled after the visit and submitted to the committee.

GTM Values and Strategic Areas of Work

We have a long history of working from community work and human rights-based approaches. GTM is a value-based organisation and is motivated and guided by the following five values:

Social Justice, Equality, Collectivity, Participation, Dignity.

As a values-based organisation, we communicate and promote our values internally among all those involved in the organisation and ensure these values are a focus for ongoing internal discussion. GTM facilitates discussion and pursues decision-making at staff, management and Board meetings in a manner that explicitly applies and takes account of GTM's values.

This is the framework to progress the areas of work which have been prioritised by the Traveller community in Galway. These strategic areas of importance are Enterprise and Work; Health; Accommodation; Education; Culture and Heritage, Racism and Discrimination and Underpinning all areas.

Participation and Practice of Rights (PPR)

GTM operates according to the Participation and Practice of Rights approach (PPR), which is about asserting rights and demanding accountability among decision-makers in order to achieve change and progress a human rights-based approach. The PPR approach uses campaigns which involve:

- Identifying changes that need to happen for communities (setting benchmarks and indicators)
- Monitoring whether these changes are taking place (by gathering evidence and collecting data from communities on the ground),
- Holding government to account.

It is about making government and decision-making structures more accountable and participative.

The PPR approach model of action sets out specific stages, which will have been used in other types of GTM's work (e.g. our Accommodation Inquiry). The next section outlines Annual Report plan for 2023 under each of the strategic areas of importance, and under underpinning areas of work.

1. ENTERPRISE AND WORK – Strategic Area of Importance

GTM Social Enterprises

- Coordinated commercial and domestic mattress/furniture collections across ten counties.
- Ongoing work on marketing for the BBR and BBU social enterprises Worked with Inis Communications/Jen Murphy Design/Finn Media for marketing/PR & website adjustments. Work on retailer package with Jen Murphy Design completed. Developed a landing page for BBU onto BBR website. Working with Inis also on PR/social media/Design. Developed the campaign plan to have PR and social media on-line for promotions in 2023.
- Carried out a SWOT analysis of the Social Enterprises early in 2023.
- Ongoing supervision and support for the BBR and BBU staff team.
- Met with the Rethink Growth Fund team to discuss contract and strategy.
- Finalised the BBR 3 Year Strategic Plan,
- Finalised the BBR Marketing Plan
- Continued to work with SVT Group on developing an impact assessment tool for BBR.
- Presented the documents to the GTM Directors for discussion and ratification at the meeting on the 26th of January.
- Successful Recruitment of a Circular Economy Manager and BBU manager
- Met with the Rethink Growth Fund team to discuss contract and strategy.
- Worked with Rethink on the addendum and doner report.
- Work on the circular economy with exporter for foam/polystyrene ‘waste’ material.
- Worked with the BBU team to deliver on targets. The team worked on upholstering furniture, restoration and alterations.
- BBR worked with Local Authorities and organised mattress amnesty day across. the country
- The social enterprise staff members attended the social enterprise national conference held on the 16th of November in Ballinasloe.
- The Social Enterprise staff team attended and presented at the Climate action and communities’ event on the 21st of November in Dublin castle.
- Organised for RTE Nationwide coverage of the social enterprises on the 22nd and 23rd of November A film crew recorded material for a feature that will be shown in Springtime in 2024.
- MW presented at the Pobal event on enhancing social inclusion as part of their 30th celebration.
- BBU cleared out the Sandy Road premises and moved to the new premises on the 4th of December. Work underway to set up the new premises.
- The enterprise and work team attended training with Cathy Moore on the 6th of December.



Community Employment

- Planned and delivered for the Youth Leadership Programme which included workshops with the GTM coordinators as part of a piece of work to embed work with young Travellers in the work of the GTM.
- Worked with the education team. Planned and delivered the Peer led education workshops. Weekly meetings held with the CE participants. Outreach carried out for the GTM education and mental health events.
- Ongoing recruitment of new participants for the GTM CE scheme
- Carried out regular review meetings with the CE participants.
- Planned and delivered on a training schedule for the CE participants.
- Finalised the CE 3 Year plan. Contacted the Trade Unions.
- Recruited a new CE supervisor in May.
- Weekly admin/supervision/ messaging with CE participants
- The CE participants planned a field trip to Knock and climbed Croke Patrick in October.
- CE participants are sent on placement and contribute to the work of the social enterprises BBR and BBU
- 6 participants attended an interview in Loughrea and will be starting a beauty course in January 2024 with the GRETB
- Coordination and financial management of the GTM Community Employment scheme.

2. Health - Strategic Area of Importance

- Coordination and supervision of the work of the Peerled Primary Health Care Programme
- SWOT analysis conducted with CHW's city and county teams separately ahead of SWOT analysis by health team to reflect on 2022 and help plan for 2023.
- SLA – prep and planning for SLA 2023, including writing of narrative report 2022.
- Discussions held with Galway Childcare committee re collaborating on an early year's programme for Traveller community in county Galway.
- Commencement of men's fitness programme bi-weekly at Westside. This included recruitment, design of posters to promote on social media and in community, and development of attendance sheets.
- Linking in with David Friel re research he is conducting re COVID-19 and impact on Traveller community across social determinants of health. 2 focus groups organized by GTM and participants recruited.
- Planning day for Regional Domestic Violence Network in Tuam – day long session to look at actions for 2023
- Outreach by CHW's newly devised reference book containing important numbers for services in Galway city and county.
- Meeting with Ann Costello and Bernie O'Grady re PUP (Parents Under Pressure) training for GTM staff
- Coordination of DV TWAWS
- Weekly women's group in Ballybane continues – average weekly attendance is 14 / 15 women from the area.
- Equine Therapy course – weekly sessions in Slieve Aughty. Finished in last week of March. Support by core staff and CHW's.
- KPI's outreach – Diabetes 'Am I at Risk' leaflet delivered to houses city and county. KPI targets met for Diabetes and report sent to HSE.
- Traveller Walking groups developed and supported across Galway city and county.
- Planning for and hosted HSE consultations in Ballinasloe and Galway city in relation to implementation strategy for NTHAP. PHC coordinators also attended the consultation in Castlebar to support the Traveller community in Mayo.
- Meetings held with THU re Development of a PHC programme in Mayo.
- Insight: Drug and Alcohol Family Support Programme organised for CHW's city and county with WRDATF in Ballybane. 2 county CHW's attended and 9 city CHW's attended.
- Start-up of Loughrea weekly soccer group in Temperance Hall. Linked in with Galway Sports partnership for equipment.
- Manual Handling training attended by County CHW's
- National Traveller Women Forum – 'Travellers in prison' conference attended by county CHW and PHC coordinator.
- Wellbeing evenings held in Galway City and County.
- Oversight of Torie counselling service, including drawing up of SLA with Helplink.
- Regional soccer tournament held in September to mark international Suicide prevention day and the promotion of Traveller Men's health and wellbeing.
- Stakeholder meeting attended by PHC Coordinator re: research project "*ENSPIRED: Enhancing Social Participation across Ireland for people with Communication Disabilities and Differences.*"
- Information session on vaccinations including childhood and HPV vaccine facilitated by nurse from vaccination center. Workshop was attended by city and county CHW's.
- CHWs attended the UHG Midwifery Group and the Portiuncula Midwifery group.
- Meeting involved planning of regional NTHAP implementation plan launch in Tuam on July 5th.

- Funding was sourced for remembrance grotto on the Carrowbrown site. A children's Playground was installed. Meeting with GCC Sharon Lawless re collaborating on a pilot project re Waste Management. Meeting was attended by CHW's from city and core staff team in GTM. Worked with Carrowbrown residents for clean-up and planning as part of waste management project.
- WRTHN Information session on menopause organised for CHW's city and county and well attended in Tuam. Facilitated by Caroline Canny.
- Men's health tender devised, written and advertised on Activelink.
- Meeting with Caroline Canny in Tuam to discuss workplan for new role of Traveller Mental Health Liaison nurse.
- An agreement was made with Healthy Galway city re-funding through next round of the programme. Funding is for 3 years to deliver on mental health actions for the Traveller community.
- Organised Jive dancing classes in Ballinfoile as part of Cardiovascular KPI's.
- Contact made with UoG, Galway city and county councils to light up buildings' orange for International Day Against Suicide
- Organised Community masses in Ballinasloe, Athenry, and Loughrea for International Day for the prevention of Suicide.
- Overseeing Torie counselling service including staffing of phone, referrals to counsellors. A business case was submitted to the Torie counselling service in October.
- Supported the redevelopment of the Mayo project attended planning meetings in Mayo and Tuam.
- Regional project meetings held in Tuam with the THU manager, Western Traveller Intercultural Group, and Roscommon reps.
- Meetings with Traveller Mediation Service were held following conflict to discuss options eg. Alternative to Violence project.
- The GTM Health team planned and held the Right to Mental Health Campaign event on the 30th of November. The "Heart of the Traveller Community" a narrative document was printed for the event. Meetings were held with Siobhán Madden to prepare for the narrative document presentation. 4 members of the team presented the document. A pack was developed and the demands for the campaign agreed. There were 45 people in attendance on the day.
- An event was held in the Ballinasloe library for men's health on the 24th of November. A blood pressure testing and fitness workout demonstration was organised with a free kettle bell and resistance band to take away for those in attendance.
- A White Ribbon event was held on the 28th in the Ballinfoyle resource centre with the boxing club and TWAWS and GTM's men's group. There were over 40 men and young boys in attendance. The message was really strong and there was great participation on the night, and a pledge made to challenge and call for an end to violence against women.
- The TWAWS were very busy developing the One Million Stars project for The Traveller community in Galway. Events were held, Stars were made and there are two live exhibitions of the stars in the libraries in Ballybane and city centre. This was part of our action as part of the 16 of Action against violence against women.
- Period Dignity products were distributed in Galway city and county.
- Jive dancing classes started at Ballinfoile as part of Cardiovascular KPI's.
- Caroline Canny delivered Music for Mood with CHW's in the county on the 20th of November.
- A minding your wellbeing workshop was delivered on the 24th with Anne Marie Murphy of health promotion with CHW's from region in Tuam.
- GTM attended the Mental Health Protest in Dublin on 5th December outside Leinster house. This was organised by Mental Health Network outside Dáil at 12pm.
- All Local Traveller Action Groups planned events in their area for the month of December. A family event took place on the 8th of December in Ballinasloe. The education team, and the TWAWS promoted their areas of work. Challenging discrimination was a topic of conversation. A Christmas activity was part of the morning.





3. ACCOMODATION- Strategic Area of Importance

- GTM was represented at the LTACC in Galway City and County
- GTM worked on an Estate management subgroup to develop Traveller specific Estate Management strategy in Galway city.
- GTM challenged the lack of progress in the city.
- Working with Galway City and County Councils re storm protection management plans for all sites in Galway City and County
- Development of your Health is your Wealth programme. Developed a work plan for a waste management project. A change in personnel in Galway City Council has changed the dynamic.
- The Joint coordinators invest in assessing funding and planning the accommodation work for the organisation.
- GTM were successful in accessing SSGT funding and are building on the Participation and Practice of Rights model to realising the right to culturally appropriate accommodation for the Traveller community.
- Individual Accommodation Advocacy work ongoing by health team members.
- Progressed the Genio application and were successful in getting a worker and project for 18months to follow up on equality outcomes for Traveller women and Children in Homeless services. We worked on a draft job description. And called the project “Sásta Cena” Safe accessible secure Traveller accommodation ensuring equality outcomes for Traveller women and children in homeless services.
- GTM Traveller Homes Now Campaign presented “They Shed a Tear” a dramatisation and focus on Traveller families living in substandard accommodation. NC met with Victor Boyhan and Michael Collins on the 9th in Leinster House in October to plan for the Accommodation event. NC worked on the invite list and developed an information pack for attendees. Pré and post work with Ministers and TDs retaking action on Traveller accommodation in Galway.
- Organised and attended the #Traveller Homes Now event in Leinster House on the 15th of November. SSGT attended the event in Leinster house with up to 60 ministers, TDs and senators in attendance.





4. EDUCATION - Strategic Area of Importance

- The GTM Joint coordinators and financial manager coordinated the work and managed the resources of the education programme.
- The Education development worker funded under the dormant accounts held 3 workshops with Traveller parents in the community in August and distributed 130 back to school packs.
- The education team produced a narrative document telling the story of 5 young Traveller experience in education.
- An education stake holder event was organised and held on the 17th of November where the narrative document was presented and the zero tolerance to racism in schools was launched. Sindy Joyce was the guest speaker and there were over 50 people in attendance.
- Developing the “educate to Empower programme with the view to delivering on equality outcomes in education.
- Quarterly Reports completed for education work
- Coordinated and supported the Diversity Hub in the Galway Community College. The project has engaged 92 young people supporting Traveller identity within the schools.
- The GTM education team promoted the need to have a key focus on racism within an anti bullying policy at the education stake holder event and called for an anti racist code of practice to be developed in each school.



5. CULTURE AND HERITAGE

- The traditional Traveller camp was set up in Ballinasloe .5 days were identified and the Traveller community and friends were invited to visit the camps. A 6 day was identified, and the camp was brought to Galway City on the 30th of September as part of the Misleór festival. A short video was produced called “Free People” Over 300 Travellers visited the camps over the 6 days.
- 3 members of the Traveller community were recruited as trainee producers and worked with Promenade and Lucamoros and produced and presented a Live performance on the 30th of September in the Cube, UofGalway as part of the Misleór festival. There was over 70 people in attendance with 5 Traveller families involved in the production.
- The GTM team reached out to the Traveller community, Galway City and County and promoted all the events. Over 300 people attended the camps and events.
- Traveller Pride 2023 celebrated Traveller changemakers in Irish History which aimed to unite Travellers and settled allies in promoting Traveller rights with the call to action for positive change in Travellers lived experience. Galway Traveller Movement organised a local event on the 14th of July in the Taibhdhearc Theatre, Galway showcasing Galway Traveller Artists and Activists and launched the Misleór 2023 Poster with over 50 guests in attendance. People really connected on the day and enjoyed the event.

- A press release was prepared, and the event was covered by the Galway Advertiser and Galway Bay FM
- The commissioning piece funded by the Arts Council was progressed with Jessie Lloyd who is an Australian Aboriginal Song Maker The performance was developed with PJ Mongan a singer /musician and 5 Traveller women and performed at the opening night of the Misleór 3-day festival celebrating Nomadic culture.
- Artists joined GTM from Berlin at the Misleór festival and 2 Traveller artists with 2 community development workers went to the Berlin festival. We are developing partnerships with other nomadic groups with the view to addressing prejudice, discrimination and racism.
- Culture nights events were organised in Ballinasloe and in Claddagh, Galway City. We projected images for the Traveller and Roma community on the sails of the Galway Hookers and Jessie Lloyd from Australia performed on the night. A multimedia van visited Ballybane and Ballinfoyle and showed images of Traveller, Roma and other nomadic communities. We also presented and showed 2 short films based on rapping made by young Travellers with the Atmos collective.
- GTM ran a 3-day festival celebrating nomadic cultures from the 28th of September to the 1st of October. GTM held 18 events that celebrated the rich culture and heritage of the Traveller and other nomadic communities. Over 500 people attended the events. The Misleór vision is for a society that has a deep appreciation of nomadic identities where their artistic talent and creativity is recognised, celebrated and protected within Irish culture and Heritage. Misleór mission is to support the development of a vibrant and diverse creative community, instilling a deeper appreciation of nomadic life and heritage, and the interconnectedness of all human cultures. We do this by empowering and amplifying Traveller and other nomadic artists' voices; reaching a diverse audience; and promoting and calling for social justice within the arts sector. It was a whole organisation approach and was funded by the Arts Council, Creative Ireland Galway City and County, Galloway City and County Councils, Ardán, UofGalway Community Knowledge Initiative.
- The festival visited Ballinasloe Festival and Horse Fair and set up a stall that showcased the rich talent of Traveller, Roma and other nomadic communities. There were demonstrations of flowermaking, tin smithing and an exhibition of the Traveller Traditional. Pockets. Over 1,000 people passed the GTM stall over the day some stopping to listen to live singing and music. PJ Mongan and Margaret Carr gave outstanding performances. The GTM staff team worked the stall for the day promoting Traveller culture and heritage.
- A selection of photographs from the Camps 2022 /2023 were selected and an exhibition developed. Geographical areas were represented and pictures demonstrating the transfer of traditional skills were shown which included tinsmithing, flowermaking, pocket making, storytelling, singing and music.
- The Nomadic expressions event was held in Galway City Museum on the 10th of November to celebrate the achievements of the Health and Wellbeing Project was a great success. The short film "Free People "depicting a day in the life of the camp was shown and the exhibition "Reimagining Life on the Road was exhibited in the Museums education room from the 26th of November.



MISLEÓR CHANGEMAKERS

TRAVELLER PRIDE 2023

CELEBRATING GALWAY TRAVELLER ARTISTS AND ACTIVISTS



Galway Traveller
Movement

invites you to

our

Traveller Pride
celebration

July 14th

11am - 2pm

Lunch included

Venue: An Taibhdhearc



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

6. RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION- Strategic Area of Importance



- GCARD – monthly meeting held in July /August and September, October. November A planning workshop was delivered in July with Rachel Doyle
- Worked with the UL student to plan the work of GCARD. Planned for the training on the 5th of July with the Hope and Strength collective re combating the Far Right and developing responses to counteract the actions of the Far Right. We worked to combat far right activity in the Westside of the city.
- Worked on the anti-racism and discrimination toolkit.
- Worked on zero tolerance to racism in school's campaign.
- GCARD held a meeting in October and agreed a plan for the cost of the National Action Plan grant of €10,000 euro.
- Jess Reid redesigned the GCARD pledge, and a drive is underway to increase membership. 2 subgroups were set up to work on the website and PR for the group. Anti racism workshops are being developed to be delivered in the communities in the New Year
- Organised the meeting with Council of Europe at GTM who hosted a meeting for the committee on the Framework convention on the Protection of National Minorities on the 21st of September.
- Hosted the Council of Europe Committee on the eve of the Meeting on the 20th of September.

- Sent relevant materials to the Council of Europe committee on the Framework convention on the Protection of National Minorities.
- Developed a GTM submission and sent it to the Council of Europe committee.
- Worked on a draft of an intercultural strategy for Galway City.

7 UNDERPINNING ALL WORK Strategic Area of Importance

- Organised the Directors meeting from January to December
- Line management and coordinators prepare and develop the Annual plan for 2023.
- Prepared for and attended monthly enterprise and community planning meetings.
- Preparing for the annual Service Level Agreement with the HSE for Submission in February
- Dealing with the monthly management accounts and completion of budgets, review of budgets versus actuals for a number of the programmes/projects
- Preparing for Annual Audited accounts.
- Completion and filing of all funders return requirement.
- Prepared for and attended monthly enterprise and community planning meetings.
- Extensive preparation work done for the Pobal audit after receiving notification of same in June 2023. Resourced and responded to the Pobal auditors the week of the 3rd – 7th July.
- Dealing with the monthly management accounts and completion of budgets, review of budgets versus actuals for a number of the programmes/projects
- Dealing with the CE 23 and initial startup matters, including insurance for the scheme 23/24.
- Work done on moving over to Vodafone as our mobile phone provider, setting up mobile phones for staff, updating the employee contact list for new mobile numbers and distribution of mobile phones.
- Arranging pension meeting for staff with pension provider
- Organising training for GTM team
- Maintaining TMS/medical certs for CORE staff & reporting on same.
- Maintaining GTM contact database.
- Completion of the Day-to-day administration support for GTM
- Attended meeting with the HSE re ongoing issues in relation to Counselling service.
- Dealing with Misleór administrative and funding matters post the event. Preparation and submission of the City Council claim for Culture Night 2023 and Misleór 2023.
- Attended a two-day National Traveller Partnership AGM and team building in Carlow on the 12/13th of September.
- Developed and submitted an expression of interest for the NTP Education Project.
- Worked with the directors and signed off on the Charity Regulator Annual compliance form. Updated the risk policy and signed off on induction information for existing and new directors.
- Prepared and submitted the Charity Regulator Annual Report for the 31st of October.
- Completion of the return to the NTP
- Dealing with the Annual B1 return to the Companies Registration office and completion of B10 – change in Director’s form.