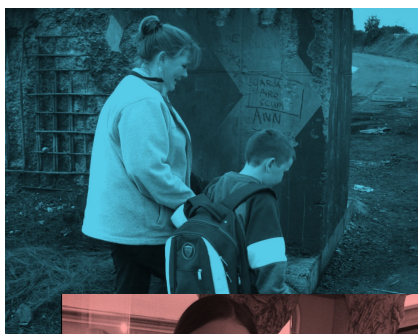


TRAVELLER & ROMA EDUCATION



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Education is recognised as a fundamental right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Irish state has obligations to promote and protect equal access and treatment in education. The issue of poor educational outcomes for Travellers and Roma has long been recognised and yet there remain stark inequalities between Traveller and Roma children and the general population in relation to education.



“If a settled person gets a good education it will get them a good job, yeah. But it’s all the same to a Traveller. A Traveller will never come home with a real good job because of discrimination,”

- Thomas Collins, aged 17.

According to the 2011 Census, 55% of Travellers leave school by the age of 15. 90% of Travellers have finished their education by the age of 17. In 2011, just 115 Travellers had attained a third level qualification, just 1% of the population. Roma statistics are not available because the Central Statistics Office does not collect data specifically about Roma. With the onset of austerity in Ireland following the economic collapse, there were 85.5% cuts to Traveller education, with no supports put in place to help Travellers successfully transition to mainstream schooling.

Given that the Roma and Traveller populations in Ireland are relatively small, children from these families can be particularly vulnerable and isolated, needing additional supports which are not adequately supplied. There is a notable absence of Traveller and Roma culture in the curriculum, preventing students in the majority population from understanding and appreciating Travellers and Roma, and allowing prejudices and stereotypes to multiply.