



Inequalities Faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities

QSD on 25 February 2020

On 25 February 2020, Baroness Whitaker (Labour) is due to ask Her Majesty's Government "what steps they are taking to implement the recommendations of the report by the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, *Tackling Inequalities Faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities*, published on 5 April 2019".

Summary

- The House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee published the findings of its inquiry into inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities on 5 April 2019.
- Among the committee's key findings were that these communities have the worst outcomes of any ethnic group across a range of areas, including education, health, employment, criminal justice and hate crime.
- The committee also found that there has been a persistent failure by national and local policymakers to tackle these inequalities in a sustained way, leading to services that are ill-equipped to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. In turn, this has led to a lack of trust in these public services. It further noted issues within these communities, such as a high level of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.
- Among the committee's recommendations were that the Cabinet Office create a specific workstream within the Race Disparity Unit for eliminating Gypsy and Traveller inequalities, and that every relevant government department have a strategy for tackling these issues.
- Further, the committee called for more analysis on the scale of the issues faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, including by those of school age who may be 'missing' from local authority registers or facing challenges in accessing the right educational provision.
- In its response published on 2 July 2019, the Government agreed with the committee's findings on the level of discrimination faced by these communities. It pointed to the results of its own [Race Disparity Audit](#), which found that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities were significantly worse off than the general population on almost every measure.
- As [announced on 6 June 2019](#), the Government said it would be developing a cross-departmental national strategy on tackling Gypsy, Roma and Traveller inequalities. It added that it agreed with the committee that health and education inequalities are considerable and must be tackled. Further, the Government said it would seek to develop proposals addressing the levels of violence against women and girls.
- A response from Ofsted was also included as an appendix to the Government's report, where it said it would look for signs that any pupil has been 'off-rolled', and that its new inspection framework will allow better identification and reporting.

James Tobin | 17 February 2020

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Key Information

- House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, [Tackling Inequalities Faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities](#), 5 April 2019, HC 360, pp 1–66

The results of the committee’s inquiry in which it found Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities faced significant and long-term inequalities, which impaired their ability to access a range of public services.

- House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, [Tackling Inequalities Faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities: Government and Ofsted Response to the Committee’s Seventh Report of Session 2017–19](#), 2 July 2019, HC 2411

The response from the Government and Ofsted to the committee, which detailed the launch of a new cross-departmental strategy to help tackle inequalities faced by these groups. It also listed action being taken in areas such as education and health, and to address violence against women and girls.

- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [‘New National Strategy to Tackle Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Inequalities’](#), 6 June 2019

A press release providing further detail on the Government’s national strategy for tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Parliamentary Questions

- House of Lords, [‘Written Question: Travellers: Hate Crime’](#), 20 January 2020, HL385
- House of Lords, [‘Written Question: Education: Travellers’](#), 15 January 2020, HL108

Press Articles and Comment

- Friends, Families and Travellers, [‘The Devil is in the Detail: Four Tests the National Strategy for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma Must Pass to be a Success’](#), 18 July 2019
- Aamna Mohdin, [‘Government Has Comprehensively Failed Gypsies, Say MPs’](#), *Guardian*, 5 April 2019
- *Travellers Times*, [‘Government Launches New National Strategy “To Tackle Entrenched Inequalities Among Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities”’](#), 6 June 2019

Further Information

- Cabinet Office, [‘Ethnicity Facts and Figures’](#), accessed 14 February 2020