

# The LGBTI+ Traveller & Roma Calendar

# 2023



# Reflecting On a Year of Research - Looking Towards a Year of Change

**'My friend helped me with this as didn't know about it. Using her phone. Blown my mind that people are doing something about this'**

*Survey Respondent*

**'Hope this research helps people. Its f\*\*\* up. we all know people who we think might be happier being more themselves'**

*Survey Respondent*

**'Thank you for asking these questions an' I look forward to things getting better'**

*Survey Respondent*

*Right: Peer-Research Report published 2022*



National Action Group  
for LGBTI+ Traveller  
and Roma Rights

## Unveiling Inequality - Experiences of LGBTI+ Travellers & Roma

A peer-research project to explore and make visible the experience of exclusion of LGBTI+ Travellers and Roma.

AUTHOR: DR. SARAH SARTORI PUBLICATION DATE: NOVEMBER 2022



# JANUARY 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						<b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY MUMMERS DAY
<b>2</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY BANK HOLIDAY	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

### SUPPORT NUMBERS



TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE  
01 878 0255



Traveller Counselling Service  
086 308 1476  
[travellercounselling.ie/online-counselling](http://travellercounselling.ie/online-counselling)



EXCHANGE HOUSE IRELAND  
National Travellers Service

01 872 1094



LGBT.ie  
LGBT Support Line  
1800 929 539



Gender Identity  
Family Support Line  
Families Supporting Families  
01 907 3707

## A Need For Change

**'My nephew whispered to her, 'he's married to a dude'. It was so funny. She wasn't bothered. Like children aren't closed minded. It's society that teaches... that brings in hatred.'**

*Focus Group Participant*

**'Very lonely [coming out]. Told there are places to go to but no, not as a Traveller.'**

*Survey Respondent*

**'That's the weirdest thing, isn't it? When you see people from minority backgrounds judging others for who they are?'**

*Focus Group Participant*

*Right: Galway Pride Protest 2022*



# FEBRUARY 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 ST BRIGID'S DAY	2 CANDLEMAS	3	4	5
6 ST BRIGID'S DAY BANK HOLIDAY	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

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## Proud of Our Identities & Ethnicities

**'In my head...I am the most Traveller of all Travellers...because I've never not been a Traveller do you know [...]. Some elderly Traveller women... decided that I wasn't a Traveller... people who were very clear in their own identity, but who felt comfortable enough to call me out in a space. And they never said it but... it did feel like it was about being gay.'**

*Focus Group Participant*

**'The table is right behind me... it's...a constant reminder to me of who I am. I have a collection of these little tin pieces from Tom McDonnell.'**

*Focus Group Participant*

*Right: Photovoice from the peer-research 'Unveiling Inequality': Traveller Ethnicity pin with the rainbow flag*



# MARCH 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 TRAVELLER ETHNICITY DAY	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY <small>(LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER WOMEN CELEBRATE THIS DAY TOO)</small>	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 ST PATRICK'S DAY	18	19 MOTHER'S DAY
20	21 INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST RACISM	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY		

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## Being Yourself

'When I told my father...I dropped to the floor and just started crying, I'm so sorry if I could change this I would. These are exactly his words. There's nothing wrong with you. If you go around thinking there's something wrong with you, you're going to be a very unhappy person for the rest of your life.'

*Focus Group Participant*

'I went back and got hit so I just left. It's not about loving people less, it's also just about loving yourself as well.'

*Focus Group Participant*

'I got a girlfriend, but I came out for the fact that one, I wanted to be happy myself, and two, because I wouldn't let a girl come into my life and let her hide as much as I was hiding.'

*Focus Group Participant*

*Right: Galway Traveller Movement & the National Action Group for LGBTI+ Traveller and Roma Rights showing allyship at Galway Pride 2022*



# APRIL 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2 WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY
3	4	5	6	7 GOOD FRIDAY	8 INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY ANNIVERSARY 1ST WORLD TRAVELLER&ROMANI CONGRESS (LONDON, 1971)	9 EASTER SUNDAY
10 EASTER MONDAY	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 LESBIAN VISIBILITY DAY	27	28	29	30

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## Truths That Need To Be Told

**'Hard being a Traveller but then you have other Travellers to be a Traveller with. And even if we're the first to drag each other down we at least have each other. But OUT Travellers have a terrible time'**

*Survey Respondent*

**'Got floored one time at a wedding when one of the men thought I was looking at him. I wasn't. Brought a lot of shame on the family'**

*Survey Respondent*

**'I'm now homeless'**

*Survey Respondent*

**'I don't feel safe as a Traveller near mind being gay... so no I don't feel safe and I don't even know what feeling safe feels like'**

*Survey Respondent*

*Right: Ally Mary McDonagh reading a speech written by Trans Traveller Mike at Trans- & Intersex Pride in Dublin 2022*



## MAY 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES	16	17 INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA (the day in 1990 when WHO declassified homosexuality as a mental health disorder)	18	19 AGENDER VISIBILITY DAY	20	21
22	23 MARRIAGE EQUALITY ACT ANNIVERSARY GREEN RIBBON MONTH	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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## Of Being Proud

**'My mam kicked me out of the house...for two weeks, so I moved in with my friend. Eventually my mam got in touch. She's getting used to it...so even with Pride she was like 'have you got any Pride flags?'**

*Focus Group Participant*

**'My three nieces come up to me, out of nowhere. I think it was the start of June but they must have found out in school it was Pride month. So, the three of them walked up to me in the camp... and says, 'happy Pride month!'. And I was like, I was taken aback... so, it is a lot better.'**

*Focus Group Participant*

*Right: Dublin Pride Parade 2022 with gay Traveller and activist Oein DeBháirdúin and Traveller ally Bridget Kelly from the National Traveller's Women's Forum*



# JUNE 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 JUNE BANK HOLIDAY	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 ST. ANTHONY'S DAY	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 SUMMER SOLSTICE	22	23 BONFIRE NIGHT	24 ON THIS DAY, IN 1993, HOMOSEXUALITY WAS DECRIMINALISED DUBLIN PRIDE MARCH*	25
26	27 ANNIVERSARY STONEWALL*	28	29	30		

2005 was the first year Traveller organisations took part in Pride in support of LGBTI+ Travellers (LGBTI+ Travellers were joining Pride long before).

\* 1969 riot that sparked LGBTI+ movement in New York.

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## Intersectionality and Why It Matters

**'Hate to Travellers is hard. Who would want another reason to be hated'**

*Survey Respondent*

**'Travellers are not safe how would a gay Traveller be safe'**

*Survey Respondent*

**'Not sure how to divide Traveller identity with being gay ...Not like people tell you exactly why they wont support'**

*Survey Respondent*

**'Bit of a mix as didn't have good choices as a Traveller and then family didn't cope very well so had less choices so I think it was a bit of both'**

*Survey Respondent*

*Right: John Ward, gay Traveller & Activist*



## JULY 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 LIMERICK PRIDE PARADE	9
10	11	12	13	14 INTERNATIONAL NON BINARY DAY OF VISIBILITY	15 GENDER RECOGNITION ACT ANNIVERSARY MULLINGAR PRIDE PARADE	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 BELFAST PRIDE PARADE	30 REEK SUNDAY
31 GALWAY RACES						

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## Time To Listen! Time For Action!

'Let's talk about LGBT all year, like from September onwards until...like not just doing LGBT talks in the schools just on June because it's Pride Month, but talk about it all the time so like children can understand'

*Focus Group Participant*

'I think they should educate children from first class upwards about the LGBT and make them understand like not everyone's the same everyone's different and it's okay to be different'

*Focus Group Participant*

'There should be more community key workers ... like LGBT Traveller specific roles, I think personally, there should be one in every organisation, locally and nationally'

*Focus Group Participant*

*Right: Turf 21 Offaly, proud to be a part of the LGBTIQ+ community – love is love*



# AUGUST 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2 ROMA HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY (Pharrajimos) - half a million Roma died in Nazi camps; a quarter of the Roma population at that time.	3	4	5	6
7 AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY	8	9 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE	10 PUCK FAIR	11	12 GALWAY PRIDE PARADE	13 LGBTI+ ROMA PRAGUE DECLARATION ANNIVERSARY
14	15 OUR LADY'S DAY BORRIS HORSE FAIR	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 FOYLE PRIDE PARADE	27
28	29	30	31			

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## You Are Never Alone

**'I met this other Traveller, and he knew what I was about. I knew what he was about as Travellers, and so we could, we support each other in that way'**

*Focus Group Participant*

**'I had this number in me... I had it memorised. I knew the support was there but I didn't actually ring the number because I was scared'**

*Focus Group Participant*

**'One of my close friends...her brother was gay and he was a Traveller. So, it gave me more confidence to open up ... and I wasn't judged'**

*Focus Group Participant*

*Top Right: Albert and Johnny, proud gay Roma Gypsy and Irish Traveller*

*Right: Veronica, Vic & Mikey, Allies*



# SEPTEMBER 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 BISEXUALITY VISIBILITY DAY	24
25	26	27	28	29 MICHAELMAS	30	

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# Coming Out – Solidarity!

'I actually got my nan to tell my granddad. She was like, 'I'll do it for you.' ...but no, he's absolutely fine with it'

*Focus Group Participant*

'I know they're not okay with it. You can just tell. You get the vibe. Just you know, you can sense it. That's fine. They're not my immediate family. That's fine. You can't please everyone'

*Focus Group Participant*

'So, the hardest one would have been for me to tell was my mom... 'Okay, I've got her kind of blessing. I don't care what anyone else thinks'

*Focus Group Participant*

'I came out to my family and community within a few weeks. It was a very positive coming out'

*Survey Respondent*

*Right: Darren Collins, proud gay Traveller, Sligo*



# OCTOBER 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						<b>1</b> INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS (older people are LGBTI+ too)  BALLINASLOE HORSE FAIR
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> NATIONAL TRAVELLER MENTAL HEALTH DAY
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY  CARRICKMINES TRAGEDY ANNIVERSARY	<b>11</b> NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY (come out as an ally to your LGBTI+ family and friends)	<b>12</b> POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH WEEK	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> INTERNATIONAL INTERSEX AWARENESS DAY (there are more intersex people in Ireland than redheads)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> CLOCKS GO BACK 1 HOUR
<b>30</b> OCTOBER BANK HOLIDAY	<b>31</b> HALLOWEEN					

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# Belonging

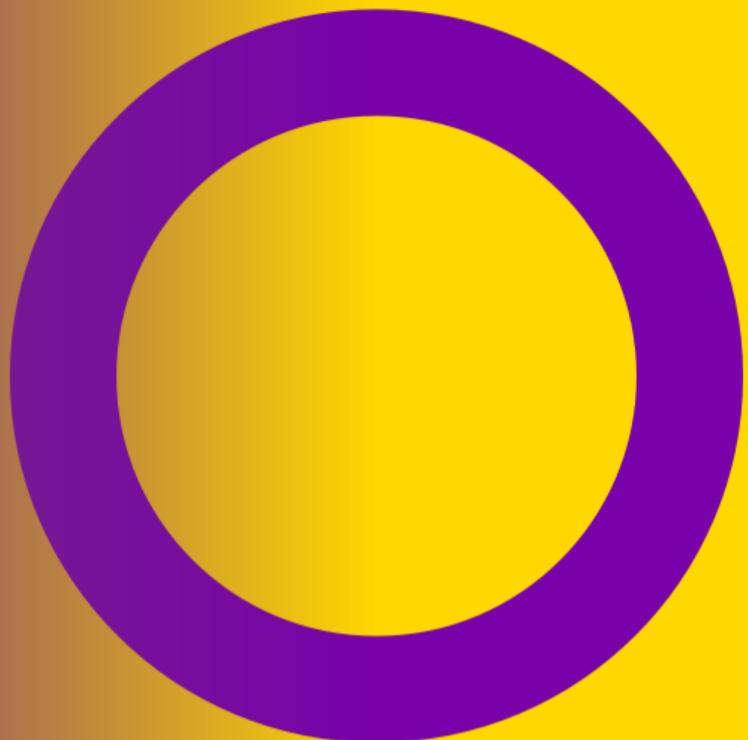
**'I think once I told my immediate family ...  
I didn't really care what anyone else thought'**

*Focus Group Participant*

**'My child is intersex and I didn't even know the word intersex until they were born. Sorry if this miss the asking but I just want my child to be known too.'**

*Survey Respondent*

*Right: The Intersex flag with its complete circle represents nothing is broken – Intersex people are whole, we don't need fixing.*



# NOVEMBER 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 ALL SAINTS DAY	2 ALL SOULS DAY	3	4	5
6	7	8 INTERSEX DAY OF REMEMBRANCE	9	10	11 MARTINMAS	12
13	14	15	16 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE	17	18	19
20 TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE	21	22	23	24	25 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	26
27	28	29	30			

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## A Look Forward

'It's been ingrained in everyone's head in the Travelling community that being gay is a taboo thing... you just doesn't exist. Obviously, it's just been passed down from each generation to generation. And now it's getting a bit better because...it's more modern times now. You see it everywhere now.'

*Focus Group Participant*

'I'm now in a lot of great support. I think in order to change things, we have to like stand up and just do it, you know? I brought my boyfriend home and we stay in my parents and we go to family weddings and parties now. And it's really normalized more to people. It gives examples for younger kids, and that's how you change stuff. I got a happy life now.'

*Focus Group Participant*

*Right: LGBTI+ Traveller and Roma, the National Action Group for LGBTI+ Traveller and Roma Rights, Traveller Organisations & allies marching in the Dublin Pride Parade 2022*



# DECEMBER 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1 WORLD AIDS DAY	2	3 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 WINTER SOLSTICE	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 ST STEPHENS DAY THE WREN	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE

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Travellers and Roma  
can be **lesbian, gay,  
bisexual, transgender**  
and that's ok.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACT SEE [WWW.TRAVANDROMALGBTI.IE](http://WWW.TRAVANDROMALGBTI.IE)

National Action Group for LGBTI+  
Traveller & Roma Rights



The National Action Group for LGBTI+ Traveller & Roma Rights is a collective that aims to increase the promotion, protection, inclusion and celebration of LGBTI+ Traveller & Roma individuals and their families within their communities and LGBTI+ Traveller & Roma organisations and services. Membership of the Group consists of representatives from the LGBTI+ Traveller and Roma communities, national, regional and local Traveller organisations and LGBTI+ organisations and services.

#### LEGAL SUPPORT

FLAC – Traveller Legal Advisor (Christopher McCann)	01 906 1010 / 01 874 5690
Mercy Law Centre	01 453 7459
Irish Human Rights Equality Commission	01 858 9601
Community Law and Mediation	01 847 7804

#### YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Involve (Young Travellers)	09064 98017
Belong To (LGBTI+ up to 18)	01 670 6223

#### TRAVELLER SUPPORT

Exchange House Ireland	01 872 1094
Irish Traveller Movement	01 679 6577
Minceirs Whiden	085 880 4450
National Traveller Women's Forum	01 738 3874
Pavee Point	01 878 0255
Traveller Counselling Service	086 308 1476
Traveller Mediation Service	083 432 2076
Traveller Money Advice and Budget Service	0761 07 2000

#### LGBTI+ SUPPORT

LGBT Support Line	1800 929 539
TENI	01 873 3575

## CALL SUPPORT NUMBERS



#### NATIONAL TRAVELLER MENTAL HEALTH PROJECTS:

EXCHANGE HOUSE IRELAND: 01 872 1094

PAVEE POINT: 01 878 0255

TRAVELLER COUNSELLING SERVICE: 01 868 5761

#### FREE 24 HOUR SUPPORTS

SAMARITANS: 116 123

PIETA HOUSE: 1800 247 247

#### 24 HOUR FREE TEXT

Text HELLO to 50808

Text PAVEE to 50808

#### FUNDED WITH THE SUPPORT OF



An Roinn Leanai, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth



Community  
Foundation  
Ireland

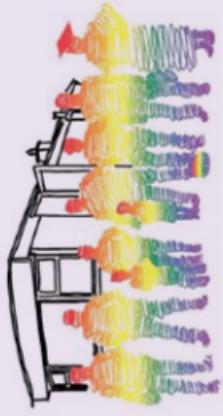
Travellers and Roma  
can be **lesbian, gay,  
bisexual, transgender**  
and that's ok.



The LGBTI+ Traveller  
& Roma Calendar

2023

## National Action Group for LGBTI+ Traveller & Roma Rights



**Tallaght Traveller Community  
Development Project**  
Traveller Rights are Human Rights



EXCHANGE HOUSE IRELAND  
National Travellers Service

**ithm** Irish Traveller  
**movement**



**PAVEE POINT**  
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE



Come out as an ally in solidarity with  
LGBTI+ Traveller & Roma.

Take a picture of yourself holding this statement:

“I agree to INFORM, SUPPORT, and STAND UP FOR  
LGBTI+ Travellers & Roma”

and contact us at [www.travandromalgbti.ie](http://www.travandromalgbti.ie)