

GYPSIES & TRAVELLERS



Gypsies and Travellers are groups of people with a long history of living a travelling or semi-travelling lifestyle. They have their own cultures, traditions, and languages. In the UK, this includes Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, and other Traveller communities.

Gypsies and Travellers have a history that goes back hundreds of years. Many have traditionally lived in caravans, tents, or mobile homes and move from place to place for work, family, or seasonal jobs. Others now live in permanent homes but maintain their cultural traditions.



Culture & Traditions:

Gypsies and Travellers have rich cultural traditions, including music, storytelling, craftsmanship, and celebrations. Family is very important, and many traditions are passed down through generations. Language can also be a part of culture: **Romany Gypsies may speak Romani, and Irish Travellers may speak Shelta.**



Discrimination & Challenges:

Gypsies and Travellers often face discrimination and unfair treatment in schools, workplaces, and when trying to access healthcare or housing. **They are one of the most socially excluded groups in the UK and Europe.** Misunderstanding or prejudice about their lifestyle can make it harder for them to access services or live safely.

Travelling & Housing:

While some Gypsies and Travellers still live in mobile homes or travel regularly, others live in permanent housing. Local authorities are required to provide legal sites for Travellers, but there is often not enough space. Travelling without a legal site can sometimes lead to fines or legal problems.

Education & Work:

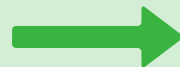
Education is important to many Gypsy and Traveller families, but children may face bullying or low expectations in school. Travellers work in a wide range of jobs, including seasonal work, trades, music, entertainment, and business. Many are self-employed or run family businesses.

Rights & Protection:

Gypsies and Travellers have legal protection in the UK. **Discrimination against them because of their ethnicity is illegal.** There are also efforts to provide more legal sites, improve access to healthcare and education, and protect cultural traditions.

Myth

All Gypsies and Travellers are nomadic.



Reality

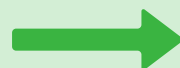
Many live in permanent homes, while some travel for work or family reasons.

Gypsies and Travellers do not value education.



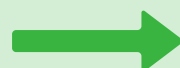
Families care about learning, but children may face bullying or low expectations.

Gypsies and Travellers do not pay taxes or contribute to society.



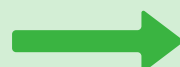
Travellers work in a wide range of jobs, pay taxes, and run businesses like anyone else.

Gypsies and Travellers are criminals.



Like any group, most are law-abiding citizens. Prejudice and stereotypes have unfairly labelled them.

Gypsies and Travellers are all the same.



There are many different Traveller communities with their own cultures, languages, and traditions.

Famous Gypsies & Travellers:

Several Gypsies and Travellers have become well-known for their work in entertainment, sports, and arts. **Some examples include:**



Charlie Chaplin (Actor)

The legendary actor and comedian had Romany ancestry.



Cher (Singer & Actress)

The famous American singer and actress has claimed Traveller heritage.



Tyson Fury (Boxing)

Tyson Fury is one of the world's most famous professional boxers and a heavyweight world champion. He proudly identifies with his Irish Traveller heritage and is often called "The Gypsy King." His success in the ring has made him a role model in Traveller communities.



Billy Joe Saunders (Boxing)

Billy Joe Saunders grew up in a Romanichal Traveller community in England and comes from a family with a boxing tradition. He represented Great Britain at the 2008 Olympics and has won European and British boxing titles as a professional.



Savannah McCarthy (Football)

Savannah McCarthy is an Irish Traveller. She is also an Irish international and Shamrock Rovers defender.