

STAY INTOUCH!

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter and will sign up for future editions.

Do you have a question about Travellers in prison?

Do you want to start a Traveller Group and would like advice?

Are you looking for resources for Traveller prisoners?

Then please get in touch!

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Andy Lee makes winning return in New York with unanimous decision

The Limerick middleweight recorded an eight-round unanimous points victory over Alabama's KeAndrae Leatherwood at Madison Square Garden's main arena less than 24 hours after Belfast's Michael Conlan made a victorious debut at the New York venue's Theater.

The judges called the fight as a unanimous points decision, 80-72, 78-74 and 79-73.

The bout was Lee's first ring outing since he lost his WBO world title to England's Billy Joe Saunders, back in December 2015.

"It's always good to come back to New York and it's always a pleasure to fight here," said Lee following his fourth victory at the Garden. "It took me a while to get going but he was a tough and awkward opponent.

"He stayed in his shell and he wouldn't really open up and I could see he was very wary of my right hook," continued the Limerick southpaw on Leatherwood.

"He was protecting that side all the time, but it took me a while to get into it. Around rounds four, five and six [I was] good... and then towards the end I knew he kind of just wanted to coast and try to go the distance," added the 32-year-old, who admitted the win was not particularly impressive but helped him shake off his ring rust.

"Yeah, I think there was a bit of ring rust, but I was just getting back into it," said Lee, who took over year out following a points loss to Saunders.

Leatherwood did manage to land some decent right hands late on in the second round, but Lee took control from the midway point of the fight with a combination of punches being the highlight of the Irishman's performance in the sixth round.

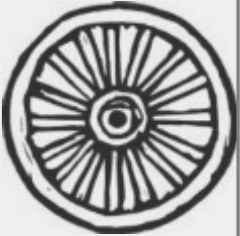


Travellers in prison news

Newsletter of the
Traveller Equality Project

Issue 20

Dec 2016



Easter Blessings



Welcome to the twenty first edition of the Travellers in Prison News. As always it has been an extremely busy few months at the Traveller Equality Project.

This issue is packed with news but we are always looking for your contributions, so please write to us if you would like anything particular included.

The Irish Chaplaincy wishes you all a happy and peaceful Easter period.

The work of the Irish Chaplaincy is funded in part by grants from the Government of Ireland, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, and the support of many generous friends

Remember this is your newsletter so write to us today sending us your letters, news, views, poems and drawings.

**Traveller Equality Project,
52 Camden Square,
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Prison & Probation staff can download resources from our website here:

<http://bit.ly/1rWs4kt>

Or email us:

travellers@irishchaplancy.org.uk

Travellers formally recognised as an ethnic minority in Ireland

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has announced formal recognition for Travellers as a distinct ethnic group within the State.

In a statement to the Dáil Mr Kenny said: "It is a historic day for our Travellers and a proud day for Ireland."

There was sustained applause and a standing ovation as Mr Kenny formally recognised, in both Irish and English, the community's ethnic status.

The public gallery of the Dáil and an overflow room were packed as members of the Traveller community watched the announcement.

Mr Kenny said the Traveller community had for many years campaigned to have their unique heritage, culture and identity formally recognised by the State. "And in this State, they make their contribution as gardaí, doctors, members of the Defence Forces, prison officers," he said.

He said it should not be a surprise that a person could identify as Irish and as a Traveller.

"This is a deep and personal issue for many Travellers.



An Easter Prayer

God, give us eyes to see
the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty
In every living thing-

And may we see in lacy leaves
and every budding flower
The hand that rules the universe
with gentleness and power-

And may this Easter grandeur
that spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith
lying dormant in our hearts

And give us ears to hear, dear God,
the Springtime songs of birds
With messages more meaningful
than man's often empty words

Telling harried human beings
who are lost in dark despair-
"Be like us and do not worry
For God has you in His care"

COMPETITION

We are looking for your short stories or poetry. These can be about any subject and the winners will have their story or poem printed in the next newsletter.

1st Prize—£20 cheque

2nd Prize—£15 cheque

3rd Prize—£10 cheque

Send your entries to:

Traveller Equality Project

52 Camden Square, Camden

NW1 9XB

Please make sure it is your own work

Youth Justice Board finally agrees to monitor numbers of young Travellers and Gypsies in custody

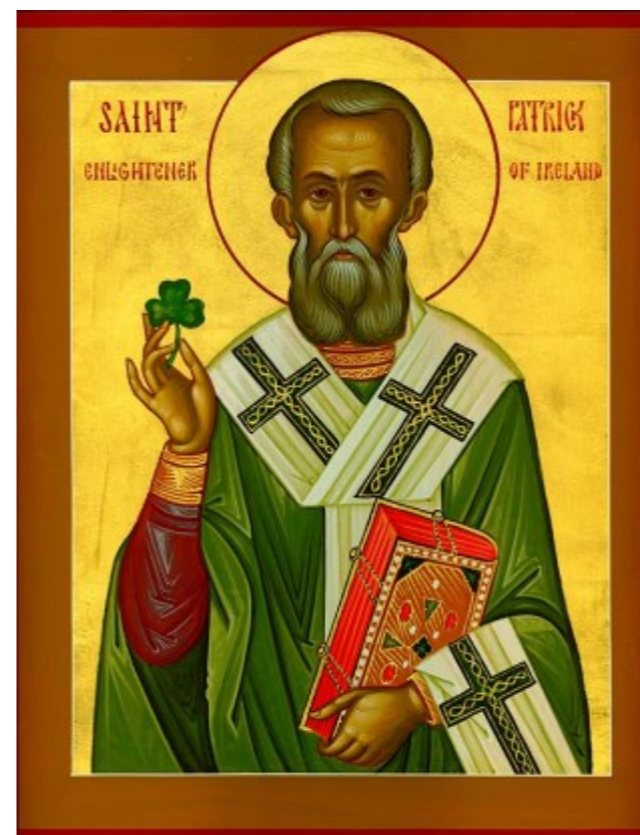
After many months of campaigning, the Irish Chaplaincy was delighted to hear that the Youth Justice Board have agreed to monitor the number of Travellers and Gypsies in the Youth Justice system. Shockingly the number of Gypsies and Travellers in Secure Training Centres and Young Offenders Centres is said to make up 11% of the total number of children according to a Her Majesty's Inspectorate report. However, this data is not currently recorded by the Youth Justice Board.

The announcement came in a letter (dated 10 February) from Dr Philip Lee MP, Minister for Victims, Youth and Family Justice to Kate Green MP in response to a Westminster Hall Debate she called on outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers in the Youth Justice System.

Dr Lee said the Youth Justice Board now plans to "stipulate the future collection of ethnicity data based on the 18+1 ethnicity categories used in the 2011 Census (which includes 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' as a separate category)".

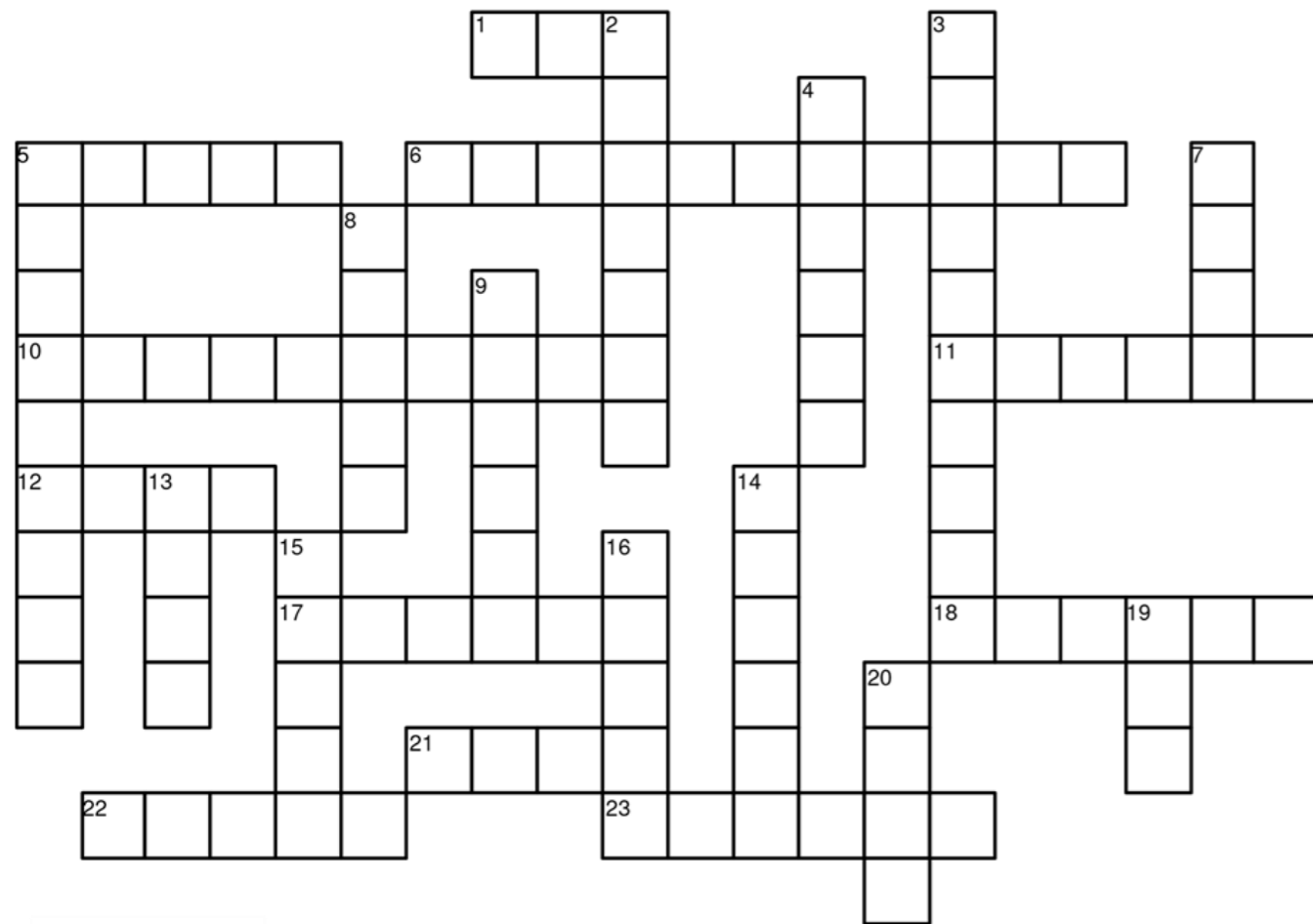
Dr Lee added that changes will "start to be implemented by October 2017" and hope it to be completely rolled out by "March 2018".

Correct and effective ethnic monitoring will, without doubt, improve the outcomes for Gypsy and Traveller children in custody. We have seen the positive effects ethnic monitoring has had in the adult penal system, by reducing the stigma of identifying as a member of the community right through to specific education initiatives aimed at Travellers and Gypsies. The up to date figures will encourage the youth justice board to form targeted rehabilitative initiatives, which will not only improve each individual child's life but the lives of the community as a whole.



Some iconic buildings around the world went green for St. Patrick's Day 2017. London Eye, Christ the Redeemer and the Empire State Building.

Easter Eggs-travaganza



ACROSS

- 1 Bunnies don't walk; they _____.
- 5 A baby chicken.
- 6 Goopy white filling used in many Easter candies.
- 10 Here comes Peter _____.
- 11 A hat that ties under a girl's chin.
- 12 The flower used as a symbol of Easter.
- 17 A Christian holiday observed in March or April.
- 18 Easter always fall on this day of the week.
- 21 Children decorate these at Easter.
- 22 Girls often get a new _____ to wear on Easter Sunday.
- 23 The season of Easter.

DOWN

- 2 Pale, light colors.
- 3 A popular fruit-flavored Easter candy.
- 4 A container for collecting treats.
- 5 A sweet brown substance used to make Easter candy.

- 7 To put something in a secret location.
- 8 He delivers eggs, candy, and other treats.
- 9 A bunny is a young _____.
- 13 A baby sheep.
- 14 Many families eat a large _____ on Easter.
- 15 Christians celebrate His resurrection on Easter Sunday.
- 16 It goes in the bottom of an Easter basket. It may be plastic, paper, or real.
- 19 It changes the color of foods.
- 20 Children _____ for Easter eggs.



Easter Wordsearch

B S U H G S M F K Q U I Y I M U B T E E
 Z F L B Q N G S Q I L N O E N J E P A A
 C Y L I B R M G H V F M N O L N R O S L
 M A U N D Y T H U R S D A Y N L N T T P
 M F M D B O B I Y X O X A O C Z O J E P
 U O T N D P F V B L B V B L E I G W R G
 S G T G B M N F W W G S E R G O N X S W
 J Z M W G X G L A F G W V T O Q I P U G
 P W U M U R D A L D G E D D U B R B N B
 B O N J Y Q L S A G F U F D N E P X D U
 J M J C Y R M Y Y Z O R S W Y U S F A N
 B M A L E X L W R H I X U C S X E D Y N
 X N X Y L Q V R D D L B O F D M C L A Y
 F D M F H X P Y A A G E N L R E H L Z Y
 G Z P D A C D Y D W P B T E J O A L D D
 H T J O V D O Y E T X X O N Y P E G D D
 Y R A N T Q D H J B H X L Q U N M G P U
 H N Y T T I F E C H I C K S T H A E G K
 A E T A L O C O H C S U C D U K A I M R
 L O N S D L P U G A A G Z W S P U G M Y

BONNET

CHICKS

EASTERSUNDAY

LAMB

SHROVETUESDAY

BUNNY

DAFFODILS

GOODFRIDAY

LENT

SPRING

CHOCOLATE

EGG

HUNT

MAUNDYTHURSDAY

YELLOW

For answers write to Ellena Costello at Irish Chaplaincy

International Roma Day - 8th April 2017



Images of International Roma Day celebrations

Thomas Mladov, President of Roma London

“Today on April 8, marks 46 years since that day was established by the UN in 1971 for our International Day. Today we celebrate all Roma and celebrate worldwide. We are about 10-12 million scattered around the world.

We are everywhere and nowhere because we have no country and are distributed worldwide. But over the centuries by nomads to settlers, we have preserved our own language, history, culture and traditions. Our nation is known that we have never waged war against other nations, and because we have never dirty our hands with blood.

We have experienced a tragic past destroyed during World voynai when our ancestors and families were lit with gas burners on forests and meadows by Hitlerite Germans. And since our ancestors lived a nomadic lifestyle, they did not have identity cards or passports, no one can say how many (lost their) lives, (but historical records account for) over 800,000.

We lived through and endured this horror. Since ancient times, we are discriminated against, persecuted and rejected by other nations. Today in the 21st century we are still victims of prejudice, xenophobia and contemporary racism.



Traveller Equality Project Resources

Reading Books:



Postcards/Posters:



Information:



And much more! Contact us for resources for your prison.



Become a learner or a mentor today!
If someone you know would like to be able to read OR you would like to help others to read ask prison staff for the details of the Shannon Trust Reading Plan.

Want To Support Your Traveller Community?

- Register as 'W3 – Gypsy / Irish Traveller'
- Become a Shannon Trust Mentor or Learner
- Become a Traveller Rep
- Organise a Traveller Group
- Become a Listener
- EDUCATE / ORGANISE / EMPOWER**

June is Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month (GRTHM)

Ask your Equalities and Diversity departments in the prison what you can do to celebrate Gypsy, Roma, Traveller culture.

Some previous events have included traditional meals, live singers, plays and acting, as well as story writing. It is chance to not only celebrate the unique traditions of Travelling life, but also a way to education and inform others and dispel misplaced myths.

Equalities teams can contact us for help and support when arranging such events!

Let us know what you and your prison are doing to celebrate in June.