

UNDERSTANDING  
TRAVELLER  
ACCOMMODATION  
NEEDS IN GALWAY

Promoting Cultural  
Diversity: An  
Equality  
Perspective

# Galway Traveller Movement

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Galway Traveller Movement

## Vision

Full equality, social justice and human rights realised for members of the Traveller community, and meaningful participation of Travellers in social, economic, political and cultural life.

## Mission

To challenge discrimination and racism experienced by the Traveller community in Galway city and county; to challenge the status quo and to empower members of the Traveller community to take action to realise Traveller rights.

# WHO ARE THE TRAVELLER COMMUNITY?

- ▶ “community of people who are commonly called Travellers and who are identified (both by themselves and others) as people with a shared history, culture and traditions including historically, a nomadic way of life on the island of Ireland,” Equal status Act 2000
- ▶ A community who are proud of their Traveller Identity – Calling for recognition, validation and protection

GTM embeds community work and a Participation and Practice of Rights approach in its work.

The right to accommodation and empowerment is central to all our work.

GTM have set up a network of 7 Local Traveller Action Groups in Galway city and County which inform our outreach programme and work to influence positive social change.

**TRAVELLER  
COMMUNITY  
EMPOWERED  
AND SHOWING  
INNOVATION**

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## GTM'S HEALTH PROGRAMME

- ▶ KPIs
- ▶ Health workshops
- ▶ Mens Health
- ▶ Walking Groups
- ▶ Healthy cookery Programme
- ▶ Craoi Q&A sessions
- ▶ Resilience Mental Health Program

# THE TRAVELLER COMMUNITY IS CALLING FOR THE RIGHT TO POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH. THIS MEANS A RIGHT TO:

Respect,  
dignity, equality  
and recognition

Hope  
and  
purpose

Joy and  
happiness

Good  
education,  
health services,  
accommodation and  
employment

Women's  
equality

Have  
our voices  
heard

Freedom from  
racism and  
discrimination

Follow our dreams  
and reach our full  
potential

A sense of  
belonging

Long and  
healthy lives

Expression of  
cultural knowledge  
and skills (horses,  
music, language,  
trading, recycling)

Freedom  
to socialise

Freedom to  
be different  
even within our  
own community  
(e.g. LGBTQI,  
disability)

Be nomadic  
and travel

Freedom from all  
forms of physical  
and emotional  
violence and abuse





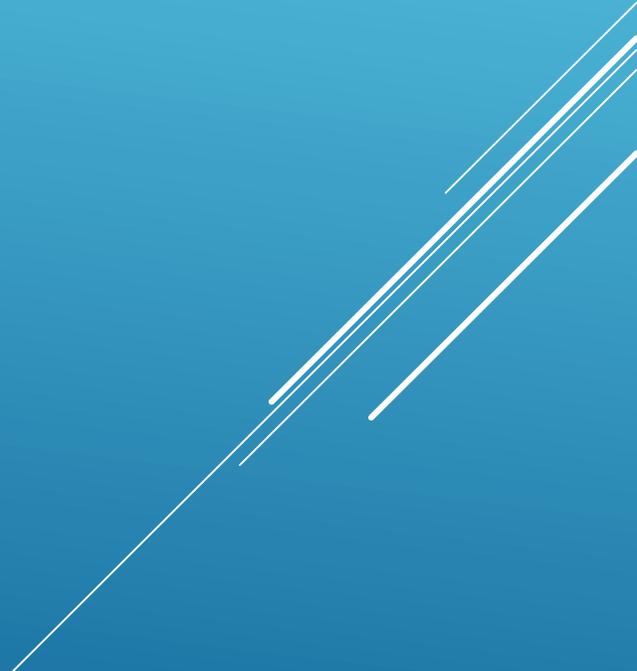
# GTM ENTERPRISE AND WORK “BOUNCE BACK RECYCLING”

# TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

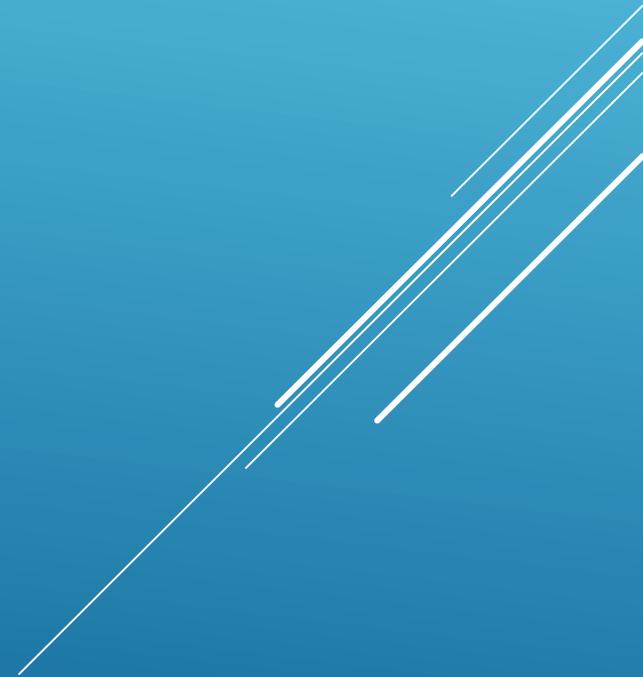
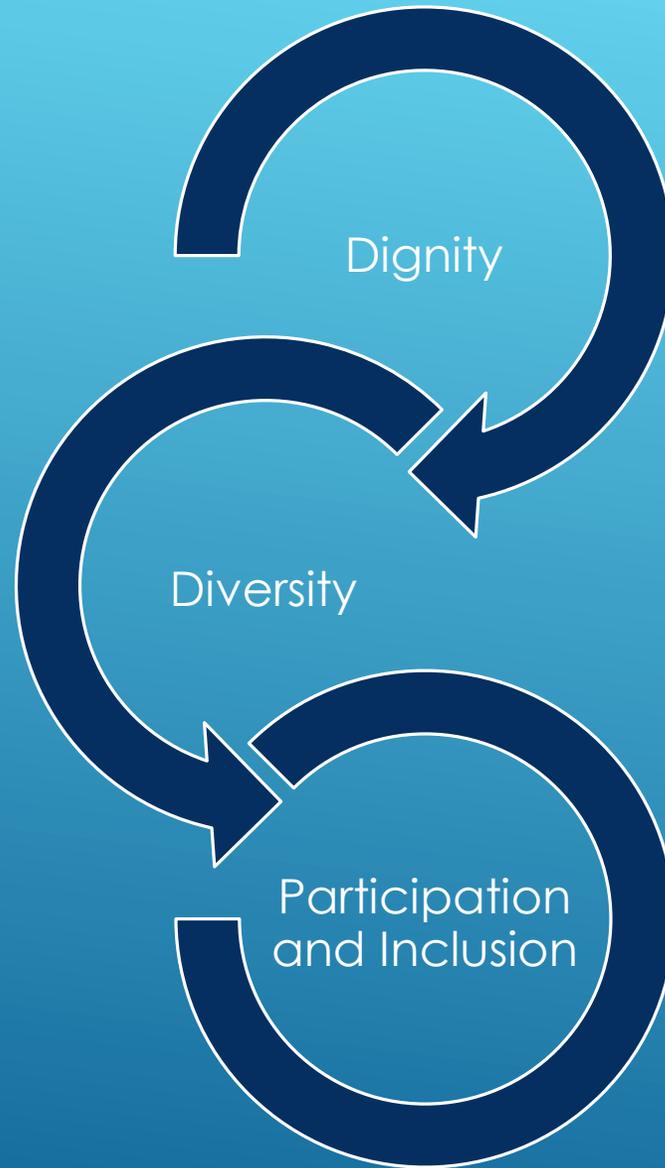
- ▶ “The right to adequate housing applies to everyone. Individuals, as well as families, are entitled to adequate housing regardless of age, economic status, group or other affiliation or status and any such factors. In other words, there should be no discrimination in the provision of adequate housing”. United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
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# TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

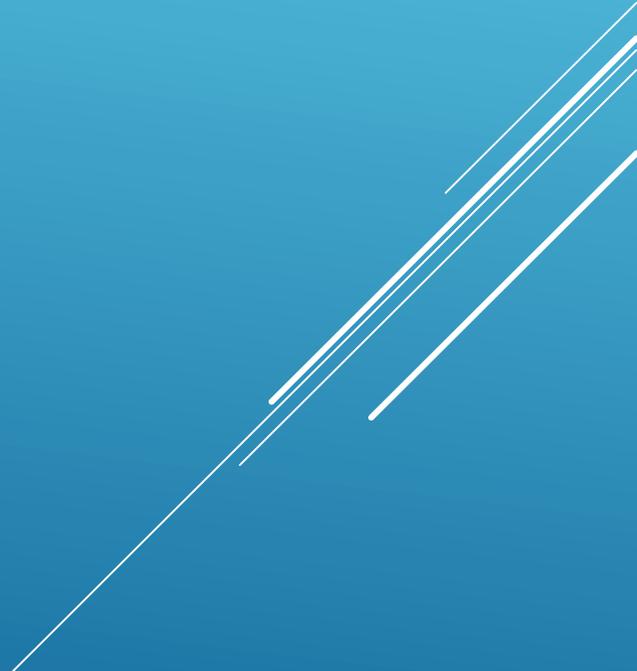
## CONT.

- **The Housing(Traveller Accommodation Act) 1998**
  - **Code of Conduct for Local Authority - 2001 Local Government Act. Obligation to avoid Bias and promote equality.**
  - **the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission's Public Sector Duty 2014. "All public bodies in Ireland have responsibility to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of their employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans."**
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## ▶ TAP Values



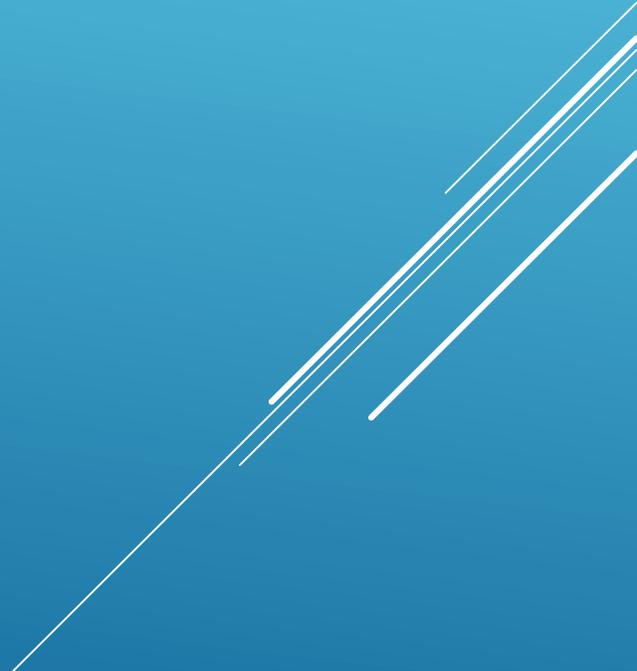
# TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION - CURRENT ISSUES

- ▶ COVID-19
  - ▶ Roadside Families
  - ▶ Provision of culturally appropriate accommodation
  - ▶ Overcrowding and homelessness
  - ▶ Discrimination when accessing private accommodation
  - ▶ Mental health
  - ▶ Social exclusion and isolation
  - ▶ Traveller participation in decision making
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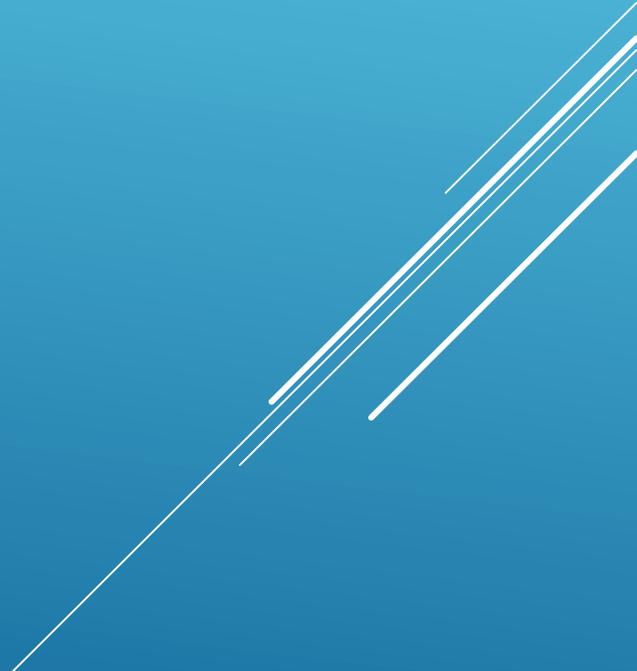
# PLANNING BY DESIGN

- To develop a more inclusive, intercultural society the conditions must be created to ensure interaction, understanding, equality of opportunity and respect.
- Planning for Traveller accommodation should be about inclusion by design not as an add on or afterthought. By accepting this we support the concept that 'one size does not fit all'.
- It is about both mainstream action and targeted strategies to meet the accommodation needs of the Traveller Community.

# Partnership, Collaboration and Ways forward

- **Implement Galway County Council Equality and Human Rights Statement**
  - **Deliver training to LTACC reps on Traveller Culture and inclusion**
  - **Build public confidence in well designed Traveller specific accommodation.**
  - **Ensure Best Practice at all levels of delivery**
  - **Emergency measures must be taken to improve conditions in line with the right to adequate housing**
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# Partnership, Collaboration and Ways forward cont.

- **Plans with timelines to improve conditions on sites must be developed in partnership with residents on sites.**
  - **There needs to be meaningful and active participation of residents in planning new sites, site improvements and site management.**
  - **Health and safety issues need to be prioritised.**
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# THE GALWAY TRAVELLER MOVEMENT

Thank you for listening