



The National Traveller Ethnicity Celebration Steering Committee

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MAJOR CELEBRATION TO TAKE PLACE ON 1 MARCH NEXT IN ROYAL HOSPITAL KILMAINHAM, DUBLIN TO MARK FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF STATE'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRAVELLER ETHNICITY

Event to include Traveller music, drama, cinema, historical talks and photographic exhibitions as well as special children's activities

A major celebration of the first anniversary of the State's acknowledgement of Traveller ethnicity will take place on **Thursday, 1 March** next in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin. The programme for the day (available at www.ethnicitycelebration.ie) was launched this morning at a photocall at 11.15 am at Dublin's Merrion Square Park.

Speaking on behalf of the nine national Traveller organisations hosting the event – with the support of the Department of Justice and Equality – Bernard Joyce said that the celebration (which is open to the public free of charge and will commence at 11.00am and end at 6pm on **Thursday, 1 March 2018**) will be a family-oriented day with lots of fun activities for people of all ages.

“This first anniversary of the acknowledgement by former Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, of Traveller ethnicity provides the space for the Traveller community to express – in a collective setting – the impact of this acknowledgement of their unique minority status as well as providing an opportunity to showcase Traveller culture and heritage. Hopefully, it is the first of many such anniversary celebrations, but the State's priority now must be to give real effect to this acknowledgement in the everyday lives of Travellers through its policy and practice ensuring the community's future as a minority group while also enabling the community to share real equality of opportunity with the majority population,” Bernard Joyce said.

Mr Joyce explained that the Irish Traveller Ethnicity Celebration will draw together essential elements of Travellers' rich culture and heritage including music, craft traditions and language. It will also showcase the history of the community through its creative traditions as well as through photography and genealogy and will feature national collections from the UCD Folklore Collection, the National Library of Ireland and the National Museum of Country Life.

Among the key items on the programme for the Irish Traveller Ethnicity Celebration (www.ethnicitycelebration.ie) – for which admission will be free – will include exhibitions and performances will be:

- Musical performances – Paddy Keenan, Thomas McCarthy;
- Look back at 10 years of Traveller Pride Awards;
- Performances of dramas written by Rosaleen McDonagh and Michael Collins;
- Films and documentaries;
- Photographic exhibition;
- Workshops/clinics on Traveller language, folklore and heritage, genealogy and music;
- Interactive features including audio collections from the national folklore, music and story archives as well as craft demonstrations;
- Displays of different elements of Traveller culture such as Tinsmithing, Beady Pockets, rugs and quilts

For children there will be a Barrel Top Wagon to explore as well as arts and crafts workshops.

Notes to Editors

The Irish Traveller Ethnicity Celebration is being organised by the following nine Traveller organisations with the support of the Department of Justice and Equality:

- Irish Traveller Movement;
- National Traveller Women's Forum;
- Minceirs Whiden;
- Pavee Point;
- Involve;
- National Traveller Money Advice and Budgeting Service;
- Parish of the Travelling People;
- Exchange House Ireland National Travellers Service;
- The Traveller Counselling Service

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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