



**PAVEE POINT**  
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

## **Conducting a participatory local needs analysis: Principles and approaches**

**Roma Rights Forum – Thursday 16 October 2014,  
10am-1pm (Registration from 9.30am),  
Pavee Point, 46 North Great Charles Street, Dublin 1.**

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### **Agenda**

**10.00** - Introduction – Siobhan Curran/Gabi Muntean – Pavee Point

**10.15** - Community participation – Ronnie Fay and Mary-Brigid Collins, Pavee Point

**10.45** - Human Rights Based Approaches – Fidelma Joyce, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

**11.15** - Including gender – Jane Pillinger, Independent researcher and policy advisor

**11.45** – Break

**12.00** – Challenges and opportunities in using these approaches – group sessions

**13.00** - Close

**Background:**

Research and anecdotal evidence show that Roma are one of the most marginalised groups in Ireland. As elsewhere in Europe, anti-Roma discrimination, racism and prejudice is widespread and deep-rooted. Roma are subjected to both indirect and direct discrimination, which results in inequality of opportunities, access and outcomes in employment, social protection, education, health and accommodation.

There is a lack of comprehensive data in relation to Roma communities in Ireland, particularly relating to access to services and outcomes from this. This is crucially linked to the lack of disaggregated data in Ireland based on ethnicity. There are also many Roma in vulnerable positions who do not have access to many basic services and are not coming to the attention of service providers. The lack of information contributes to significant obstacles in gathering evidence about racism and discrimination, the barriers Roma face in accessing services and the gaps in services.

At a local level some health needs analyses are taking place to ascertain some of this information. This can be a difficult process due to a lack of ethnic identifiers across services. There are also significant barriers in connecting with Roma who have been unable to engage with services. Many Roma have real fears about ethnic data collection based on past and current negative experiences of racial profiling across Europe. The high profile case of two Roma children being taken into state care last October, has further exacerbated Roma mistrust in state authorities and raised fears about negative consequences of data collection.

This session aims to inform the process of undertaking local needs analyses through a discussion of principles and approaches to working with communities. The session will focus on human rights based approaches, ensuring inclusion of gender and community participation. Presentations and question and answer sessions will take place with speakers who have experience working on these principles and approaches.

**For more information and to RSVP contact Siobhan at [siobhan.curran@pavee.ie](mailto:siobhan.curran@pavee.ie) / 01 8780255**