

the Traveller  
Movement

Thursday 16th  
November 2023  
at  
Lambeth Town  
Hall

Annual Conference

## FUTURE VOICES

*"Celebrating diverse prospective's  
for a brighter future"*

Keynote Speaker

**Seyi Obakin OBE, Chair of Youth Futures Foundation**

Tickets NOW available  
to book



Workshops include:

- From margins to movements
- The different paths to a prosperous future
- Empowering Entrepreneurship
- Is there really no room at the Inn?
- Spotting the red flags



# Keynote Speaker: Seyi Obakin OBE, Chair of Youth Futures Foundation

## Panel 1: What is the Road Map?

*Panellists: Dr. Jon Tan (Leeds Beckett University); Charlie Doherty (The Traveller Movement); Rosemary Lloyd (His Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service); Phil Regan (The Traveller Movement)*

Are we doing enough to offer good employability skills and inclusive strategies to open up pathways to fair and equitable education training and employment opportunities? This panel brings together a wealth of knowledge and experience to share successful policies and hear directly from practitioners and community voices.

## Panel 2: Reembracing our sense of belonging (a seat around the campfire)

*Panellists: Declan O Driscoll (The Traveller Movement); Olivia Hammond (Romani Gypsy FE Teacher); Prof. Colin Clark (University of the West of Scotland & TM Advisory Board Member); Laura Angela Collins (The Traveller Movement); Sally Carr (National Youth Agency & TM Advisory Board Member)*

Finding pride in ourselves as Romani (Gypsy), Roma and Irish Traveller communities can often present a significant challenge, given the negative stereotypes portrayed in the media and by our own politicians. As diverse communities we must build on our strengths and reembrace our sense of belonging. Can our communities rise to the challenge, embrace difference and all have a seat around the campfire? This panel of intergenerational experts will share their experiences and discuss this question.

## Workshops

### Workshop 1: From Margins to Movements: Building Political Power for Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Youth

*Austin Harney (Civil Servant and PCS Union Representative in the Justice Sector); Virgil Bitu (Roma Human Rights Activist Green Party); Jimmy Doherty (The Traveller Movement); Elisha Holt - Community Engagement and Development Officer*

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Young People are seeking greater representation across the parliamentary political system. In a political climate which is underpinned by uncertainty and change, with the cost of living crisis, inflation at all time high and record levels of industrial action. There has been no more of an important time for young people to become engaged in politics.

Explore the vital themes of accessibility, representation, and making politics work for our communities. Gain some valuable insights into empowering strategies, promoting political literacy, and nurturing active participation.

Listen and discuss increasing political engagement and representation for the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Communities with voices from across the political spectrum.

Together, let's use this workshop as an opportunity to build a future where political inclusion knows no bounds."



## Workshop 2: The Different Paths to a Prosperous Future

*Olivia Hammond (Tutor & Apprenticeship Adviser for Business and Marketing for Lancaster & Morecombe College); Dan Rosenberg (Public Law Solicitor in Education and Community Care for Simpson Millar); Shannon Roncarni (Youth Advisory Group)*

Educational experiences vary greatly between all children but none more clearly than those of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people. In an education sector which continually attempts to use existing and new models that standardise large parts of the system, is it really a surprise Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people find education difficult to access and succeed? It is vital for the success of our young people that the education system works to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people, and move away from a model that makes young people, families and school staff work hard to serve our education system. Now is the time for our young people to decide what works best for them to allow them to succeed.

## Workshop 3 : Empowering Entrepreneurship

*Wolfgang Douglas (CEO and Founder of RomaniChals Rals Modular Homes); Shane Manogue (CEO of Lovit Technologies Ltd); Shannon McDonagh (University of Surrey); Katrina Sale (Head of Partnerships at the Entrepreneurs Network & Chair's the APPG for Entrepreneurship)*

Join us for an inclusive and dynamic workshop tailored specifically for Gypsy, Traveller, and Roma individuals interested in pursuing self-employment. Gain valuable insights into the process and challenges of setting up a business, from registering with Companies House to understanding the importance of public liability insurance and VAT registration. Engage with inspiring business leaders who will share their stories and provide guidance. Connect with like-minded individuals, expand your network, and foster meaningful connections. Embrace the opportunities that await and unleash your entrepreneurial spirit in a supportive and inclusive environment.

## Workshop 4: Is there really no room at the Inn?

*Charlie Doherty (The Traveller Movement); Martin Howe (Martin Howe. Senior Partner and Public Law Solicitor for Howe & Co.); Chloe Pugh (Equality & Human Rights Commission)*

In a world where we are ever increasingly focused on the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion and human rights, how can it be possible that the leisure and hospitality industry still regularly discriminates against Traveller people by refusing to offer services based on race? With cases still being regularly referred and reported, why are we seeing situations reminiscent of the 1950's 'No Blacks, No Dogs, No Irish' in relation to predominantly Irish Traveller communities, continue without wider sector understanding or challenge of these out-of-date, archaic and wholly unjust actions?

## Workshop 5: Spotting the Red Flags: Healthy Relationships and Wellbeing

*Laura Angela Collins (The Traveller Movement); Michaela Queensborough (Against Violence & Abuse); Tina McInerney (The Traveller Movement); Kate Lexén (Tender); Crystal Grace Smith (Traveller Women Helpline)*

Women and girls need to know their rights and understand the warning signs of abuse. It is important for all young people to know the difference between a healthy and unhealthy relationship. This workshop will focus on relationship health and safety. What are the red flags in a relationship? What support is available for girls and their parents? How can we keep our daughters safe, happy and healthy? This workshop explores these questions and considers what needs to happen to support and empower the next generation.



# Have your voice heard in the COVID inquiry

The Traveller Movement has been named a Core Participant in the Covid-19 Inquiry – Module 4 (Vaccines and Therapeutics).

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities were abandoned during the pandemic, the inquiry will be a place where we can have our voices heard and ensure that the same mistakes cannot happen again.

In order to ensure the nuance of people's experiences are heard the inquiry is putting together a film "Every Story Matters" which will be made up of interviews with individuals telling the story of their pandemic.

During the conference we will be interviewing people who wish to share their story. This is an opportunity for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to have their voices and experiences put on record. By participating in this film policy makers will have no excuse to abandon us again in the future.

Please fill in the consent form in your conference pack if you would like to have your story heard.

# Provisional Agenda

**09:30 – 10:00: Registration and Networking**

**10:00 – 10:10: Welcome from the Chair**

Pauline Melvin OBE (TM Trustee and Director of Learning & Skills, Derby City Council) and Jimmy Doherty (Traveller Movement Intern)

**10:10 – 10:30: Keynote Address**

Seyi Obakin OBE - Chair of Youth Futures Foundation

**10:30 - 10:35: Covid Inquiry: Our stories**

Speech from Martin Howe on TM progress in the Covid inquiry & how we can ensure GRT voices are properly heard

**10:35 – 11:45: Panel 1: What is the roadmap?**

Dr. Jon Tan (Leeds Beckett University)

Charlie Doherty (The Traveller Movement)

Rosemary Lloyd (His Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service)

Phil Regan (The Traveller Movement)

**11:45 – 11:55: Refreshment break**

**11:55 – 13:05: Panel 2: Building a culture of inclusivity and belonging and dialogue. Challenging the stereotypes**

Sally Carr (National Youth Agency & TM Advisory Group Member)

Declan O'Driscoll (The Traveller Movement)

Olivia Hammond (Tutor & Apprenticeship Adviser for Business and Marketing for Lancaster & Morecombe College)

Professor Colin Clarke (University of West Scotland & TM Advisory Group Member)

Laura Angela Collins (The Traveller Movement)

**13:05 – 14:05: Lunch**

**14:05 – 15:35: Workshops**

Workshop 1: From Margins to Movements: Building Political Power for Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Youth

Workshop 2: The Different Paths to a Prosperous Future

Workshop 3: Empowering Entrepreneurship

Workshop 4: Is there really no room at the Inn?

Workshop 5: Spotting the Red Flags: Healthy Relationships and Wellbeing

**15:35 – 16:05: Plenary Session**

**16:05 - 16:15: Closing Keynote**

Crystal Grace Smith

**16:15: Conference ends**


## Overview

At Traveller Movement's 2023 conference, **'Future Voices'** will celebrate the diversity of Romani (Gypsy), Roma and Irish Traveller youth and community. While the UK is experiencing multiple interconnecting crises, we must keep moving forward and commit to creating better outcomes for the next generation. By creating intergenerational dialogue and focusing on opportunity and access, we can build a brighter future.

We are not under any illusions about the barriers these communities face. From education to employment to politics, there is a lack of access, inclusion and opportunity. The cost-of-living crisis, voter ID changes and lack of access to adequate healthcare disproportionately affects ethnic minorities. Economic struggles are simultaneously affecting, and are affected by, an unfolding mental health crisis. Community reports of deaths by suicide – particularly amongst children and young people– are increasing at an alarming rate.

Coupling these poor outcomes with frequent incidents of hate crime and discrimination, there is no doubt that Romani (Gypsy), Roma and Irish Traveller communities are at a systematic disadvantage from the general population. While there is wide-ranging variety between Romani (Gypsy), Roma and Irish Traveller communities, all are united by the fact that they are poorly served by policymakers and public services. Despite parliaments acknowledgement of this failure, little change can be seen on the ground. There has never been a more important time for young people to take a stand and engage with the political landscape.

We know about the lower rates of educational attainment and higher levels of unemployment within these communities, but we rarely highlight the pockets of good news. For example, the number Romani (Gypsy), Roma and Irish Traveller students who started a degree course at a university or college doubled in 2022. We rarely celebrate our successes and at this conference we wish to shine a light on good practice and good role models.



To address the profound challenges ahead, the 2023 Traveller Movement conference will bring together key policymakers, passionate advocates, motivational business leaders and inspiring young people to consider the relationship between education, opportunity, and access within GRT communities specifically.

From panel to workshop, the guiding thorough line of **'Future Voices'** is identifying how we support and empower the next generation.

During economically and politically trying times, it is easy to feel like there is no way out, but we want to draw attention to the light at the end of the tunnel. This year our conference brings together an inspirational cohort of diverse, intergenerational voices. Through a network of support, Romani (Gypsy), Roma and Irish Traveller youth can be empowered to seize new opportunities and make politics work for them.



To book your tickets, use the QR code below

If your organisation would like to book and pay by invoice, please ensure you have a [purchase order number](#) and email your request to [officeadmin@travellermovement.org.uk](mailto:officeadmin@travellermovement.org.uk)

Booking requests by email must include delegates' name and contact details, workshop choice and purchase order number for it to be confirmed.

For any enquiries, please contact the Office Manager at [officeadmin@travellermovement.org.uk](mailto:officeadmin@travellermovement.org.uk) or phone 020 7607 2002

**Conference Venue: Lambeth Town Hall, 1 Brixton Hill, London, SW2 1RW**

## Prices

**BAND A: £179.00**

Statutory/Commercial organisations and Voluntary/Community/Charitable organisations with a turnover of over £500,000

**BAND B: £119.00**

Voluntary/Community/Charitable organisations with a turnover up to £500,000 including Traveller Education Services

**BAND C: £85.00**

Voluntary/Community/Charitable organisations and groups with turnover up to £500,000 and less than 10 employees

**STUDENT RATE: £25.00**

Limited number of free places available for Unwaged Travellers. Please contact the office.

## DATA PROTECTION

TM will use the information you provide on your booking form, and additional information you may provide in the future, for administrating our conference. We will not disclose this information to any other person or organisation, except in connection with the above purpose.

## BOOKING CONDITIONS SUBSTITUTIONS AND CANCELLATIONS:

All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations made more than 2 weeks before the event will receive a full refund minus a charge of 10% per ticket price per delegate. If cancellations are made after this time payment must be made in full. Substitutions can be made at any time without charge.

The conference will provide an ideal platform for information sharing, and a vital space for discussion amongst Gypsy, Traveller, Roma community members; Elected members; Local Authority employees, planners etc; Prisons and Probation staff; Youth Workers; Police; Civil Servants; Teachers; Funders; Health and Community Workers; Voluntary Sector Professionals; Legal Professionals; Statutory service providers; Social Services; Media Professionals

**BOOK NOW USING  
THE QR CODE**

