



*innovation and action for social justice*

Pavee Point Travellers Centre

## **Roma: A part of Ireland, now and into the future.**

Romale Aven Cate : Roma included too

### **Press release immediate 7/4/08**

There are now more than three thousand Roma with residence status throughout Ireland. This community must be recognised as part of Ireland now and be successfully integrated. This will require a range of groups and sectors working in partnership together.

To mark International Roma Day on Tuesday April 8th, in the spirit of such partnership, Pavee Point and Crosscare, in alliance with a range of Community and Voluntary organisations have produced an innovative information leaflet, for Roma people. President of the Irish Human Rights Commission, Dr. Maurice Manning will launch the leaflet.

The information leaflet is aimed at encouraging more engagement between Roma and the Community and Voluntary sector in Ireland. The Roma language leaflet (*Romale Aven Cate : Roma included too*) resourced by St. Vincent de Paul will explain to people where they can get information on their rights and entitlements.

Sara Russell from Pavee Point stated that:

*The Roma community are often not aware of where they can go to get support on issues in their lives such as education, training and employment, housing and poverty. This is a huge barrier to integration and a cause of further exclusion. This leaflet is an attempt to improve this situation.*

Policy Officer for Crosscare Migrant Project Joe O'Brien commented on the situation of Roma in Ireland and welcomed plans by the Minister for Integration Policy, Conor Lenihan to develop a formal representative structure for immigrants:

*We welcome Minister Lenihan's plans to develop a Ministerial Council for Integration which will be solely representative of immigrants and will allow ongoing input by immigrants into policy issues. Considering the marginalised situation of many of the three thousand or so legally resident Roma in Ireland we believe it is imperative that Roma are directly represented and involved in the Council and we have written to the Minister to ask him to ensure that this will be the case.*

For more information contact Sara Russell, Pavee Point on 01-8780255 and [roma@pavee.ie](mailto:roma@pavee.ie) or Joe O'Brien, Crosscare Migrant Project at 01-8732844/087-9608540 and [jobrien@crosscare.ie](mailto:jobrien@crosscare.ie)