



**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**



**Make
| Some
Space |
GRTHM 2021**

**Gypsy, Roma and Traveller
History Month 1-30 June 2021**

PARTICIPATION PACK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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#MakeSomeSpace
#ProudToBe

Thank you for joining us in celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month!

Every June since 2008, people from across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM). Through celebration, education and raising awareness, GRTHM helps to tackle prejudice, challenge myths and to amplify the voices of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers in wider society.

During Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, we celebrate the unique and diverse histories, cultures and languages of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the UK and also the remarkable and immense contributions Gypsy, Roma and Traveller individuals and communities bring to wider society.

Travellers' Times have produced a short video 'Roads from the Past' which provides a brief overview of the histories of some of the largest Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the UK.

This year, our theme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month is 'Make Some Space'.

We are asking people across the UK to 'Make Some Space' for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in their day to day lives. This will look different for different people, for example:

- If you work at a council, this might mean ensuring there are enough spaces for Gypsies and Travellers to stop in your area, or mapping traditional stopping places throughout history in your area.
- If you are a teacher, this might mean making space in your teaching time to focus on the histories, cultures or present realities of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.
- If you work on TV or in the media, this might mean making some space in TV and film for authentic portrayals of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

- If you work for a Government organisation, this might mean making some space to consider how your service or area of work could be more inclusive to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.
- This might mean making some space in your day to educate yourself on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories and cultures and how to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people to uphold their rights.

In addition to this, during the last week of GRTHM (from the 23rd - 30th June), there will be a special focus on the theme 'Proud to Be'. During this week, we're asking people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to share reasons why they are proud to be from the community they are from.

We would love for you to take part in our celebrations this June and we hope that in this resource pack you will find the inspiration and information you need to fully participate.

Warmest wishes,

Sarah Mann

Director at Friends, Families & Travellers

Ben Stroud

Friends, Families & Travellers Trustee and Chair to Friends, Families & Travellers Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month Work 2021

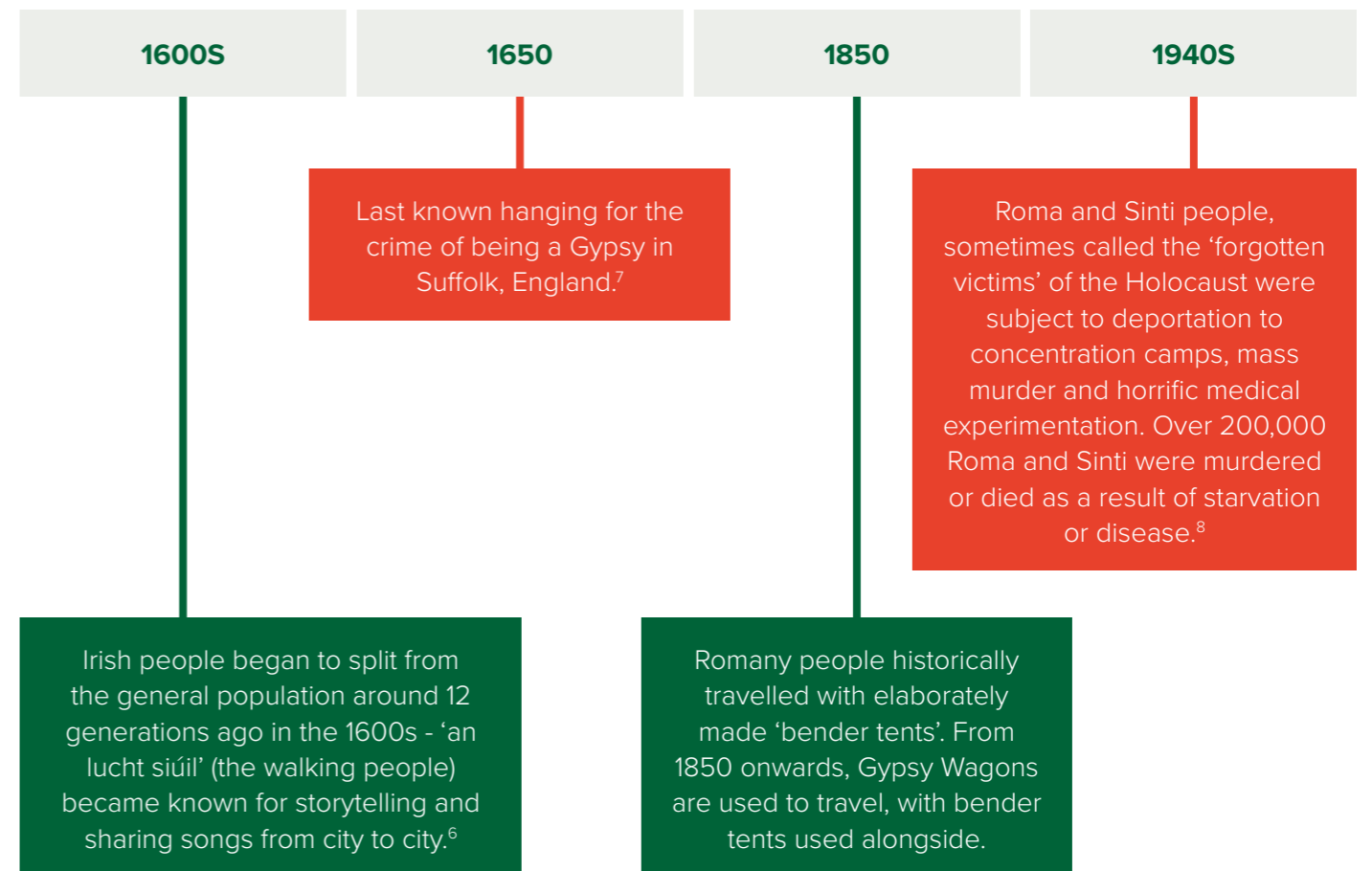
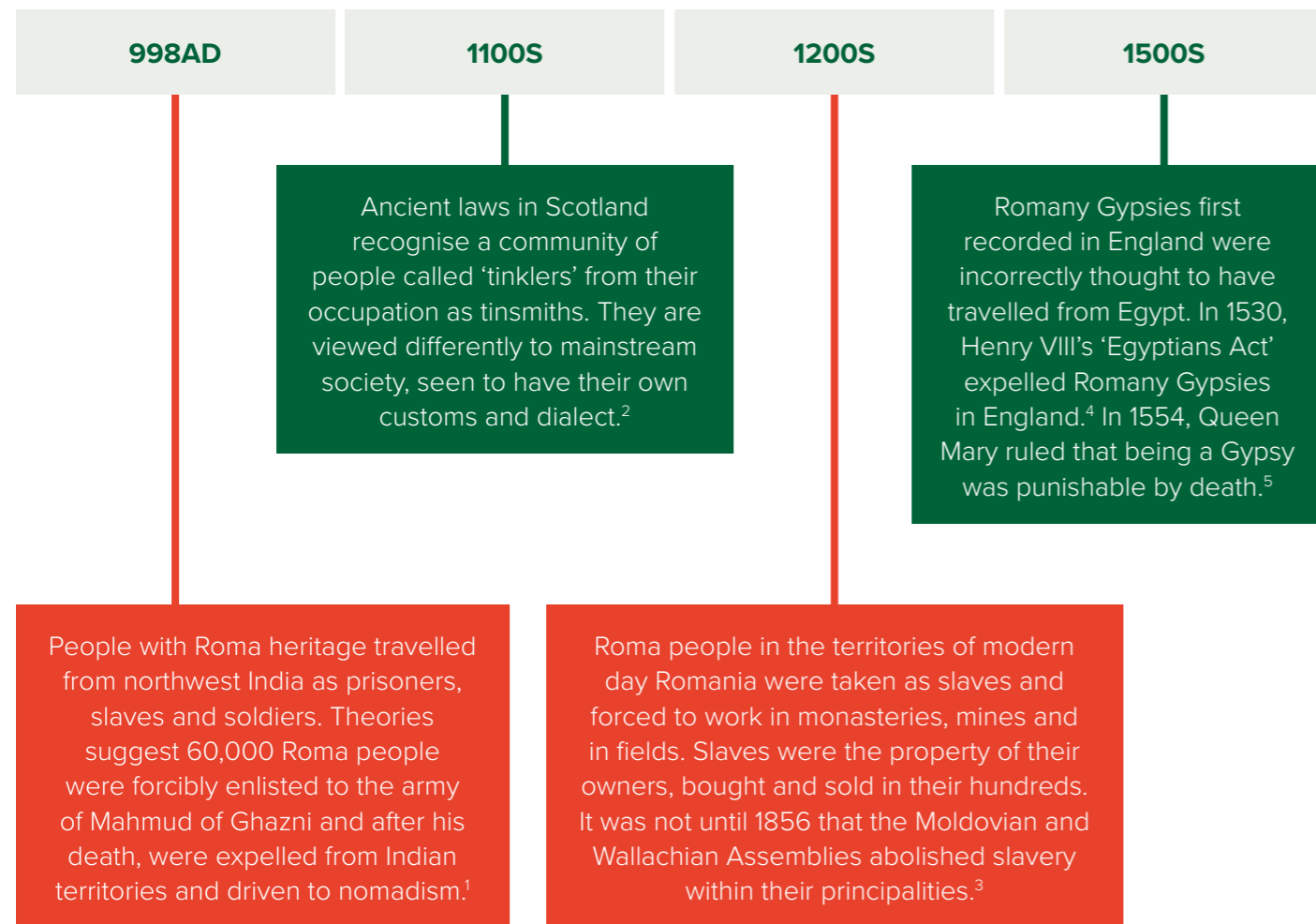
1. www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bhBbMrF8ZO

Key dates for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people throughout history

The rich and diverse histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people are largely absent from classrooms, books and museums.

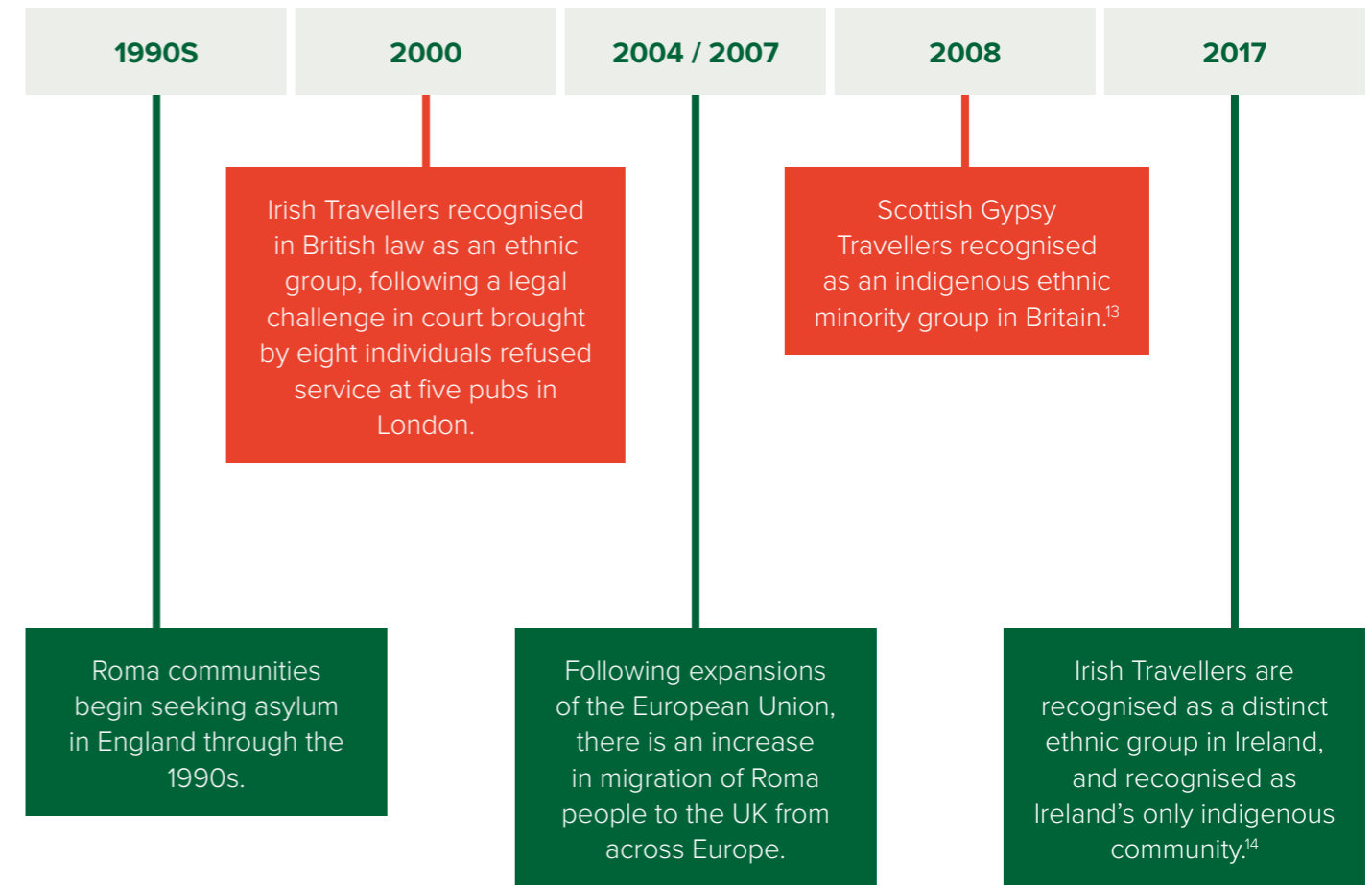
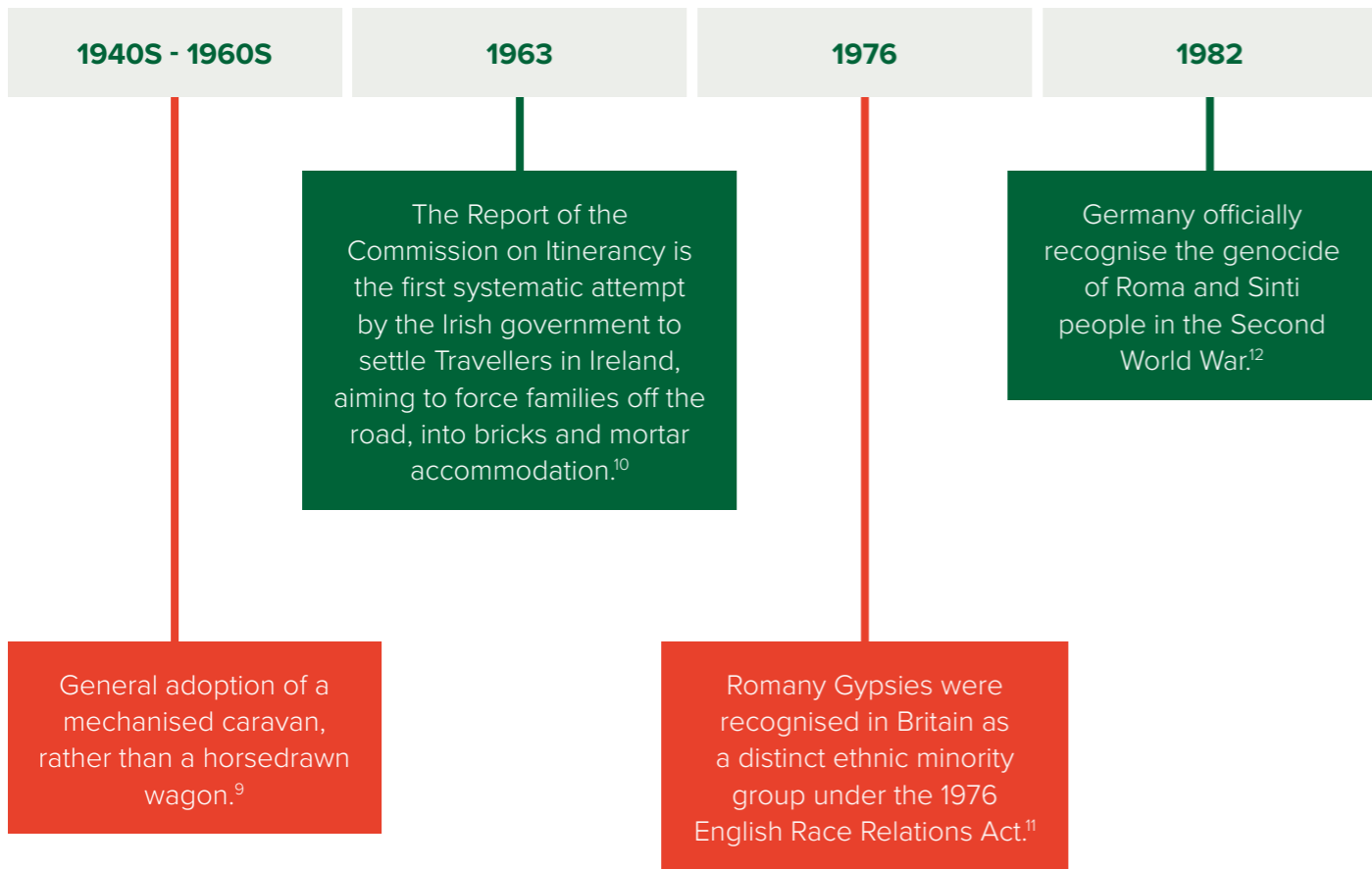
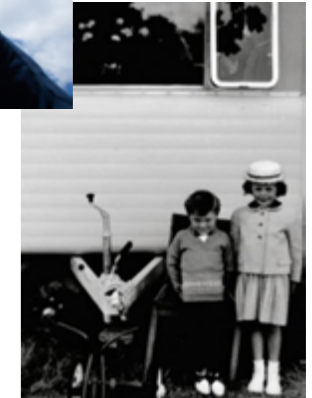
The timeline across these pages gives a small glimpse into the international histories of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. There are many different people and groups who fit under the umbrella term 'Gypsies, Roma and Travellers' used in society. This can include Roma people, Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Scottish Gypsy Travellers, New Travellers, Liveaboard Boaters and Travelling Showpeople.

In the timeline below, we include key dates in history for people of Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma and Scottish Gypsy Traveller ethnicities. We include the events below as a starting point for your further reading and learning.



1. <https://kopachi.com/articles/a-new-look-at-our-romani-origins-and-diaspora-by-ronald-lee/>
 2. <https://www.iriss.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-06/qt-timeline-A4-web.pdf>
 3. <https://romediafoundation.wordpress.com/2014/04/18/roma-slavery-in-the-romanian-territories-a-catch-22-of-history-and-recognition/#:~:text=For%20almost%20five%20centuries%2C%20Roma,simply%20used%20to%20repay%20debt>
 4. <http://www.nationalgypsytravellerfederation.org/culture-and-history.html>
 5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2b36fr/revision/2>

6. <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep42187>
 7. <https://www.historytoday.com/reviews/gypsies-england>
 8. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/nazi-persecution/the-porrajmos/>



9. <https://www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/info-for-parents-students-and-teachers/ethnic-minorities-and-travellers/traveller-wagon-project/history-of-wagons-and-wagon-building/>
 10. <http://www.paveepoint.ie/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/AssimilationPolicies.pdf>
 11. <https://minorityrights.org/minorities/romagypsiesitravellers/#:~:text=Romany%20Gypsies%20were%20recognized%20as,accorded%20this%20status%20in%202000.>
 12. <https://www.romarchive.eu/en/roma-civil-rights-movement/sinti-and-roma-federal-republic-germany/>

13. http://bemis.org.uk/docs/gypsy_travellers_in_contemporary_scotland.pdf
 14. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/travellers-formally-recognised-as-an-ethnic-minority-1.2994309>

Want to learn some useful words and phrases in Irish Cant?

For Irish Travellers, the language you speak can have varying names according to the family you belong to.

Mincéir Thari can be called Shelta, Cant or De Gammon. It is an ancient indigenous language formed using the Ogham technique that gradually developed towards its present form under the pressure of contact with Irish and Hiberno-English. Mincéir means Traveller and Thari means talk, so this might be translated as 'Traveller talk'.

The closest living language is old Irish, which was spoken in Ireland pre 1200s. While the language is practiced mainly through oral tradition, with very little written history of it, the words for 'priest' and 'God' shown in old, pre-Christian documents in Ireland show shared lineage between the languages. The language is widely used today and the majority of people who speak it also speak English. There are different dialects of Irish Cant and in Ireland alone, there can be differences in words commonly spoken across the country and differences in spelling between people.

ARE YOU GOOD?

Ar munya dil?
/Ar munya hu?

I'M GOOD

Mydil Tome/Munya

WHAT NAME DID YOU TAKE?

Munika Bug astúrt, lit?

MY NAME IS...

Mydil munika...

TAKE A CUP OF TEA

Bug a gushach weed

WILL YOU GET ME A CUP OF TEA?

Will ya Bug mi'dil a gusach a weed

ONE, TWO, THREE

Ain, do, tré

I'M PROUD TO BE AN IRISH TRAVELLER

Mydil Mincéir tashler

MAKE SOME SPACE

Crush mier (move over) and Bug mi'dil nomera (give me room)

Want to learn some useful words and phrases in Scottish Cant?

Scottish Cant is spoken between Scottish Gypsy Traveller or Nacken people.

While there is a standardised strain of Cant, localised dialects mean there are multiple evolutions of the dialect. The language is almost entirely oral and differs between geographical locations or through family and social preferences. The language is constantly evolving. For Scottish Gypsy Travellers, Scottish Cant is often the first language for children, but will be accompanied by other languages used by parents.

Scottish Cant shares greater commonality with Romanés than with Gaelic languages, revealing the lineage of Scottish Gypsy Travellers from Northern India, with Roma peoples. It is part of the phenomenon of Indic diaspora languages spoken by travelling communities of Indian origin outside India. There are different dialects of Scottish Cant and in Scotland alone, there can be differences in words commonly spoken across the country and differences in spelling between people.

HOW ARE YOU?

Irr ye weel?

I'M GOOD, THANK YOU

I'm barrie, parruka tute

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

Sossi tiro nav?

MY NAME IS...

Miro nav si...

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CUP OF TEA?

Irr ye deekin' fur a taseo' char?

I'M DYING FOR A DROP OF TEA

I'm moudin' fur a toti wichin o' char

ONE, TWO, THREE

Yeck, dui, trin

I'M PROUD (NOT EMBARRASSED) TO BE A NACKEN

I'm nai shaant to be a Nacken

MAKE SOME SPACE

Budge alang (move over)

Want to learn some useful words and phrases in Romani Dialect?

Roma, Romany Gypsies, Manuches, Kale and Sinti and people with Roma descent live in various countries across the world.

There are more than 10 million people of Romani descent in Europe alone. Romani is a rich family of languages with an Indo-Aryan root. Romani is the only Indo-Aryan language that has been spoken exclusively in Europe since the Middle Ages and whose vocabulary and grammar are related to Sanskrit.

The language used by Romani people is a source of great pride, facilitating the connectivity and communication between people across the world. Nearly all Romani speakers are multilingual (speak another language) and also use the language of the majority population where they live. It is estimated that there are 4.6 million Romani speakers in Europe. There are many different dialects of Romani spoken and in England alone, there can be differences in words commonly spoken in the North and in the South of the country and differences in spelling between people.

HOW ARE YOU?

English Romanichal:
Sar shan/so keresa?

Romanian Roma:
So kăres?

Slovak Roma:
Sar sal?

I'M GOOD, THANK YOU

English Romanichal:
Shom kushti, palikerava toot

Romanian Roma:
Mes sim mișto,
nais tukă

Slovak Roma:
Laces, Palikerav

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

English Romanichal:
So see chiro nav?

Romanian Roma:
So si kiro anav?

Slovak Roma:
Sar pes vicines?

MY NAME IS...

English Romanichal:
Murro nav see...

Romanian Roma:
Muro anav si...

Slovak Roma:
Me pes vicinav...

WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP OF TEA?

English Romanichal:
Komessa lumbas/chai?

Romanian Roma:
Kames ekh cuci ciau?

Slovak Roma:
Kames teja?

I WOULD LOVE A CUP OF TEA

English Romanichal:
Ava, may komava lumbas/chai

Romanian Roma:
Me kamav ekh cuci ciau

Slovak Roma:
Kamlomas teja

ONE, TWO, THREE

English Romanichal:
Yek, doi, trin

Romanian Roma:
Ekh, dui, trin

Slovak Roma:
Jek, duj, trin

I'M PROUD TO BE ROMANY

English Romanichal:
Loshalo shom te shom Romano chavo

Romanian Roma:
Falma mișto kă sim Rom (male)/
Romni (female)

Slovak Roma:
Me som barikani hoj som Romani

I'M PROUD TO BE ROMA

English Romanichal:
Loshalo shom te shom Rom

Romanian Roma:
Falma mișto kă sim Rom (male)/
Romni (female)

Slovak Roma:
Me som barikano hoj som Rom

MAKE SOME SPACE

English Romanichal:
Keren phuv

Romanian Roma:
Kăr than

Slovak Roma:
De man than

8 ways you can mark Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

1. Review whether there is enough space for nomadic Gypsies and Travellers to stop in your area

Although nomadism has been present in the UK for centuries, there is still a shortage of places for Gypsies and Travellers to stop across the UK. In keeping with the **#MakeSomeSpace** theme of this year's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, review and make sure there are adequate places where Gypsy and Traveller people in your area can stop.

2. Hold a celebration day

Work with local Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and organisations to hold a celebration day. Invite people from local Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to share stories or to enjoy food or arts traditional to their culture.

3. Organise a viewing of Crystal's Vardo theatre production

During the last week of June, educational play Crystal's Vardo will be available to watch online for free. Crystal's Vardo is a play about a young Romani Gypsy girl who travels through time in her Grandad's vardo, unravelling the history of her ancestors. It is perfect for children and adults alike.

4. Learn about and share Gypsy and Traveller history in your area

Learn about Gypsy and Traveller history in your area by taking a look at local archives or looking



for local names at the **Romany and Traveller Family History Society**¹. You could create a map of traditional stopping places in your area, with the help of online materials and by speaking to local Gypsy and Traveller families to discover the unique histories of Gypsies and Travellers where you live.

5. Set up a staff network for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in your sector or organisation

At least one in 200 people in the UK are from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and it is likely that some of your staff or service users are from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. During Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, consider setting up a staff group, following the example of the **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Police Association**² and the **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Social Workers Association**³.

6. Light up civic buildings for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month in your local area

Light up council buildings and encourage local historic, arts and civic buildings to shine a light this June and celebrate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. Your council building, local museum, church or library can help to build awareness of the month by lighting their buildings overnight.

7. Provide training to members of your staff team on how they can provide inclusive services to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people

A range of organisations across the UK offer training on cultural awareness of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and how to provide

inclusive services to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Find **voluntary sector organisations working in your area**⁴ or find out more about **Friends, Families and Travellers training**⁵.

8. Celebrate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media

Share any activities that you do and your positive commitment towards Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in your local community by using the hashtag **#MakeSomeSpace** on social media through the month of June. Encourage Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in your staff team and local community to share messages on social media using the **#ProudToBe** hashtag in the last week of June.



1. <http://rtfhs.org.uk/>
2. <https://grtpa.co.uk/>
3. <https://www.basw.co.uk/media/news/2020/jul/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-social-work-association>
4. <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/services-directory/>
5. <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/online-cultural-competency-training/>

Sharing information about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media

This year, we would love to see local authorities and councils across the UK harnessing the positive power of social media to raise the profile of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month and to celebrate the contributions people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have made to your local area.

Use these hashtags to help us shout about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

#MakeSomeSpace

For the month of June, you can share activities you're doing as part of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media using this hashtag and use this hashtag to find out what others are doing and how you can be involved.

#ProudToBe

#ProudToBe week (23rd - 30th June)

In the last week of June, we're asking people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to share reasons why they are proud to be from the community they are from.

Let Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in your staff team and in local communities know that **#ProudToBe** week is taking place and help them to celebrate in a way that feels comfortable to them.



What can I do right now?

Copy and paste the messages below to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

Post 1:

I'm celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month this June. Are you?

There is so much to learn about the rich histories and cultures of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in the UK.

This year the **#GRTHM** theme is **#MakeSomeSpace**

Get involved here:
www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm

Post 2:

Through celebration and education, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month challenges prejudice and shares the rich and diverse histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

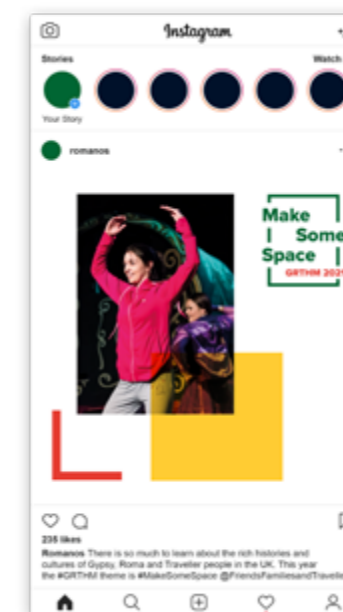
We are going to **#MakeSomeSpace** in our diary to celebrate **#GRTHM**

Get involved:
www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm

Share your GRTHM cards

Take a picture of you or your team holding our photo card and let people know why you are celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. There's a space on the card so you can share why Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month is important to you. You can download our photo card at www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm or request a copy at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LKZ35YQ>.

Don't forget to tag us!





**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**

www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm

#MakeSomeSpace #ProudToBe

We work to end racism and discrimination against all Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

Community Base

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[**www.gypsy-traveller.org**](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org)

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