Myth:

Domestic violence is more prevalent in the Traveller community and is inherent in Traveller culture.

Truth:

Domestic violence is not inherent in Traveller culture. Traveller women do not accept violence.

1 in 5 women in Ireland who have been in a relationship have been abused by a current or former partner (Women's Aid, 1995). Women from every cultural and social background can and do experience violence. The cause of domestic violence is the same in all communities: it is an issue of gender inequality and abuse of power and control.

Contact Us

At this time, some of the telephone numbers listed below will direct you to TWAW coordinators. Please contact these numbers Monday - Friday from 10am to 4pm.

Eileen Burke, TWAW Cork
Traveller Visibility Group Cork
T: (087) 2191154 - Caroline Vasseur
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Megan Berry, TWAW Carlow St. Catherine's Traveller Programme T: (086) 0272803 - Valerie Byrne E: meganb@catherines.ie

Brigid Collins, TWAW Dublin
Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre
T: (085) 7878734 - Bridget Winters
T: (087) 7445247 - Laura Pohjolainen
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Laura Pohjolainen, Project Co-ordinator Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre T: (087) 7445247 E: laura.pohjolainen@pavee.ie Traveller
Domestic,
Sexual &
Gender-based
Violence Pilot
Project













About The Project:

The Traveller Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-based Violence (DSGBV) Pilot Project is in response to findings of regional Needs Assessments undertaken by Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, in 2017. As minority ethnic women, Traveller women experience a number of barriers to seeking information, support and protection when experiencing domestic or sexual violence.

The project aims to bridge the gap to services and supports by working with service providers and Traveller organisations/community in four different locations in Ireland.

The project:

- works towards ensuring equal access and outcomes for Traveller women when accessing and engaging with services;
- works with Traveller organisations/community to increase awareness about domestic and sexual violence, relevant services and supports, and women's rights; and
- supports Traveller knowledge and analysis to come up with responses to the issues and barriers faced by Traveller women when seeking safety and protection.

Role of the Traveller Women's Awareness Worker (TWAW):

WORKING WITH SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

TWAW's work with service providers to ensure improved access and outcomes for Traveller women in services. The TWAW's can support service providers by raising awareness about the issues, fears and barriers Traveller women may face and by promoting good practice in services.

THE TRAVELLER COMMUNITY

TWAW's work with local Traveller organisations, women's groups, youth groups etc. to build knowledge about what domestic and sexual violence is, and what services and supports are available. Through this work we address domestic and sexual violence as issues of gender inequality and power and control.

TWAW's can provide information for Traveller women who experience domestic and sexual violence, and can support by listening, believing and referring women to specialist domestic and sexual violence services. The TWAW's are not specialist domestic violence outreach workers but can refer women to relevant services.