GATE Herts is the only Gypsy and Traveller led and run organisation in the UK. Our aim is to educate both Travelling communities and the wider community to live side by side in a diverse community.

We have recently launched the only dedicated Hate crime reporting page for Gypsies and Travellers in the UK. www.ReportRacismGRT.com. It is a ground breaking initiative to combat the hate, discrimination and acceptable racism that Gypsies and Travellers face. We have been active on Facebook and Twitter now for a year, and the data we have collected is shocking.

We would welcome the opportunity to share this with you.

We will be building on this website and social media campaign it will be somewhere our community can go to report all incidents from online hate speech through to refusal for service from businesses and establishments. Eventually there will be Download complaint forms, links to police and support groups, victim support and it will form a catalogue of just how many anti-Gypsy racism occurs on all levels. Currently there are no accurate figures for GRT racism as it’s not recorded separately only as the usual “other”.

The plan for tackling hate crime towards Gypsies and Travellers must be cultural awareness, education and knowledge. We can provide training, workshops, and facilitators to speak on racism and all that it encapsulates. Again we would be happy to share this with you.

GRT communities face harassment and discrimination on a daily basis as a result of negative stereotypes and deeply ingrained cultural prejudices. Sharing, reporting, recording and challenging all forms of racism is tantamount to breaking down the last acceptable form of racism.

We hope that by educating and publicising the challenges we all face daily we can promote inclusivity, social cohesion and start to unite the wider community with the Gypsy and Travellers in the UK in a positive way. Hate crime is not acceptable.

We will be compiling the facts, figures severity of hate and presenting the government with it. Tell MAMA are giving us software and invaluable support with this. GALOP will be linked to help with LGBTQ issues. Together we are stronger in the face of prejudice.

We would welcome wider acknowledgement and publicity of Hate crime to GRT communities. We believe that inclusion in the CPS’s resource pack, reporting diversity booklet, plan for tackling hate crime is essential to help with GRT hate.

We are currently working on a Holocaust campaign to gain acknowledgement of the suffering and death of up to 5000000 why is there nothing currently in the police officers guide to the holocaust? This is tantamount to the denial and insulting to us. There is still no Roma representation on the government’s holocaust commission despite continual pleas from us and many other GRT organisations.

Sherrie Smith
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Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment