

London Gypsy and Traveller Forum 2020 Election manifesto

This document draws on discussions of the London Gypsy and Traveller Forum throughout 2019 and the experience and expertise of community members and other stakeholders.

More information about the London Gypsy and Traveller Forum can be found at

www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/london-travellers-forum/

Mental Health

Suicide and severe mental health issues are rising in the community

Discrimination

Institutionalised and acceptable discrimination face the community in all aspects of life (education, work, housing, accessing services etc)

Accommodation

Families face increasing homelessness, forced evictions, lack of culturally suitable accommodation, insecurity and threats of site closures and the criminalising of their cultural way of life

We are asking the candidates for Mayor of London and London Assembly to:

- Champion the mental health of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities by addressing the issues of severe discrimination and poor accommodation
- Take a stand against the extreme level of institutional, entrenched and perpetual racism faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, as part of the GLA's equality duties
- Work with councils and other public bodies on good practices to meet their equality duties
- Ensure MOPAC collects data on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller victims of race hate crime
- Implement the London Plan Policy on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation – in particular protecting existing sites; conducting a London wide needs assessment; working with councils to build new sites
- Implement a negotiated stopping approach in London and oppose government plans to increase enforcement powers and criminalise trespass
- Promote a London-wide high standard for Gypsy and Traveller site management and tenants' rights