



ACCOMMODATION RIGHTS CHARTER : FIRST STEPS TRAVELLERS OF NORTH CORK

The time for change is now.

Travellers of North Cork call on the Irish state and Cork County Council to implement the following small steps to fulfil our accommodation rights:

1. MAKE BUDGETS TRANSPARENT

- a. Central government must require **transparency around Traveller Accommodation Budgets** provided to Council. We must know how much money is allocated and for what, how much was spent and on what, and how much was not spent. Councils must receive penalties if they do not spend the money allocated to them
- b. Clear and **effective ways** for the Traveller community to **influence** how the **Accommodation Budget** is spent

2. DELIVER DECENT TRAVELLER-SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION

- a. **Immediate investment** to bring the **Ballydineen Halting site** up to a decent standard in accordance with their accommodation rights
- b. **Transparency on the number of Travellers on the waiting list** for social housing/accommodation
- c. **End** the practice of automatically **removing Travellers from the social housing waiting list** if they are in receipt of **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)**
- d. **Increase supply** of Traveller appropriate accommodation

3. RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO PROBLEMS

- a. **Clear timeframes for resolving maintenance** problems reported by the Traveller community
- b. **Monitoring** satisfaction levels of **maintenance work** carried out by the Council

*For more information, contact Travellers of North Cork at
travellersnorthcork@live.com*

ACCOMMODATION RIGHTS CHARTER

#TNC-ARC

INFORMATION SHEET



1. MAKE BUDGETS TRANSPARENT

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 2 (1))

“Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, ... to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means..”

In 2015, Cork County Council was allocated **€400,000** from central government to spend on Traveller accommodation.

Cork County Council sent it all back to central government unspent.

2. DELIVER DECENT TRAVELLER-SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Comment 4, 8e)

“Adequate housing must be accessible to those entitled to it. Disadvantaged groups must be accorded full and sustainable access to adequate housing resources.”

In November 2016, **67%** of North Cork Travellers said their housing was not suitable for them or their families.

In 2016, Cork County Council planned to build **0 Halting Sites** and **0 Transient Sites**.

3. RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO PROBLEMS

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Comment 4, 17)

Remedies for the right to accommodation should include effective systems for dealing with *“complaints against illegal actions carried out or supported by landlords (whether public or private) in relation to rent levels, dwelling maintenance, and racial or other forms of discrimination... [and] complaints against landlords concerning unhealthy or inadequate housing conditions.”*

In November 2016, **84%** of North Cork Travellers who had reported problems to Cork County Council were **NOT** satisfied with the response.