

Policy: Support for the Traveller & Roma Communities

TU Dublin is one of Ireland's largest third-level bodies that encompass over 30,000 students across its three campus locations. With that title and breadth of influence, comes a large responsibility to the communities within the University and the surroundings.

The progress review for the National Access Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education states that there is a need to improve participation rates among the Irish Traveller Community. This encompasses the Roma community also.

It is important to draw note to the fact that the Traveller & Roma community is classed as an ethnic minority in Ireland and experience racism daily, and as a community, we cannot let our friends and colleagues go through this without it being challenged and corrected. This policy would enshrine the belief that every student is an integral part of our wider community and should be supported regardless of who they are, where they come from or their background.

This policy will aim to tackle that by ensuring that TU Dublin Students' Union actively includes the Traveller and Roma representations in the appropriate campaigns, and as a further step, that TU Dublin Students' Union works with TU Dublin and relevant partners to ensure that the University becomes much more accessible for students from the Traveller and Roma communities, in partnership with working with the University to ensure the wider community knows that TU Dublin.

The works should further in the respect that the Students' Union should lobby for the implementation of impactful and meaningful of different tools, status kits and more (such as iReport, Yellow Flag, STATUS Tool Kit, Guaranteed Scholarships and more) to ensure there is a real change in culture towards the Travelling and Roma community.

The essence of this policy ensures that TU Dublin Students' Union recognizes and understands the need for attention to be drawn to the difficulties faced by the Traveller and Roma communities and that the Students' Union should do everything possible where appropriate to ensure their experience in third-level education goes unhindered, and their access (and progression) to (and throughout) education is free from stigma, hatred, bigotry or unnecessary barriers.

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