

MANIFESTOS FOR THE GYPSY, ROMANY AND TRAVELLER COMMUNITIES

“UNDER THE NIGHT
SKIES, WE ARE ALL
EQUAL”

THIS MANIFESTO WAS CREATED DURING 'GHOST GYPSY'

The Arts Development Company was awarded funding to mark 100 years since Parliament passed a law which allowed the first women, and all men, to vote for the first time.

Supported by The Women's Vote Centenary Grant Scheme, the Arts Development Company brought together Dorset Race Equality Council and Development Education in Dorset (DEED) to work with young women aged 16-30 from local secondary schools and Gypsy, Romani and Traveller Communities. Through a series of creative workshops, young women came together to creatively explore the challenges and barriers surrounding voting and taking part in local decision-making processes.

Other outcomes of this project includes a film, a series of manifestos, and free, online learning resources created by DEED.



AS A MEMBER OF THE GYPSY, ROMANY AND TRAVELLER COMMUNITY I PLEDGE TO:

- Sign up to the electoral register
- Use my right to vote to express my opinion in local and general elections
- Actively seek to influence the issues that matter to me: for example, through participating in consultations and campaigns; sharing my views at public meetings or in the local media; seeking membership of advisory or decision-making bodies or running for councillor
- Be proud of my culture and origins and share it openly with others
- Positively challenge negative attitudes towards my culture if I feel that it is safe and appropriate to do so
- Ask for help when needed
- Engage in the promotion of my culture throughout the community to raise awareness of who we are and what we do
- Engage with local organisations that can support me and help me promote my culture
- Treat people with respect

AS A MEMBER OF A LOCAL ORGANISATION WORKING IN DORSET, I PLEDGE TO:

- Be respectful, compassionate and understanding towards all communities
- Acknowledge and recognise the cultures of the Gypsy, Romany and Traveller communities and work with other agencies to ensure that an accepted and concerted approach is adopted to support the Gypsy, Romany and Traveller communities
- Have a zero-tolerance approach towards all kinds of discrimination
- Help make the planning permission process for the Gypsy, Romany and Traveller communities more clear and transparent
- Enable the Gypsy, Romany and Traveller communities to actively contribute to the planning process and constructively challenge planning decisions made
- Increase transit stopping places and permanent site provision for members of the Gypsy, Romany and Traveller communities so that they can live without fear
- For relevant organisations: provide Gypsy, Romany and Traveller cultural awareness sessions for teachers, students and statutory organisations (e.g. Kushtibok in Dorset)
- Encourage schools to provide opportunities for learning about their local, diverse community, including Gypsy, Romany and Traveller culture, for their students, teachers and families. This can take place as lessons in school, training for staff, special days and assemblies, or community events

MANIFESTOS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 18- 30

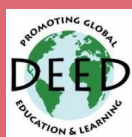
“AND STILL I RISE”

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- Ensure that the curriculum is relevant to students from all cultural backgrounds; that teaching staff are recruited from diverse communities and that lessons cater to children with diverse learning styles
- Create a greater awareness about the importance of caring for our mental health and how racism, discrimination and the loss of cultural identity can impact negatively upon the wellbeing of individuals and communities
- Provide more mental health support for young people from the Gypsy, Romany and Traveller communities

AS A YOUNG PERSON ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND AGED BETWEEN 18-30, I PLEDGE TO:

- Register on the electoral register
- Use my right to vote to express my voice in local and general elections
- Believe in my power as a young person to represent a wider call for change.
- Have my voice heard to impact decisions that affect my life and other people's lives
- Champion and become an advocate for voting
- Encourage people to become active citizens and change makers
- Stay interested and hungry to learn more
- Be empowered to constructively disrupt the status quo
- Engage with local organisations that can support the cause, help to answer questions and signpost to further information
- Treat people with respect, even if their views are different

WHAT WE CAN DO TO ACHIEVE THIS:

- Respect and value young people's voice and viewpoints
- Ensure young women and girls, whatever their background, can speak out and be listened to, and to feel like they can make decisions and bring about change
- Ensure that young people are exposed to a range of views
- Create an independent toolbox for educators to support the teaching of politics
- Set up mock elections for young people to take part in
- Create, an online resource at local election time for young people to find out about candidates standing in their area and a way to submit questions to them,
- Host or encourage hustings young people can attend
- Create, or help to create, a resource to facilitate a 'question time' style event with politicians and young people

