



Travellers and Education Roundtable 22 June 2005

Profile of Speakers

Peter Graham

After university in Belfast, Peter began his career as a school teacher in Carrickfergus in the late 1960's. Since then he has had a varied career, mainly in the voluntary/community and education sectors. Posts held have included Research Fellow at the Ulster Polytechnic, Chief Executive of the Youth Enterprise Scheme (a venture capital company for young entrepreneurs) and Director of YouthAction, Northern Ireland. Peter has been a lay magistrate for ten years and a Justice of the Peace for over twenty years.

Peter joined the Education and Training Inspectorate in 1999 and has lead responsibility for the education of Traveller children. His other interests include the Youth Service and Alternative Education/Education Other Than At School (EOTAS).

Pat Holmes

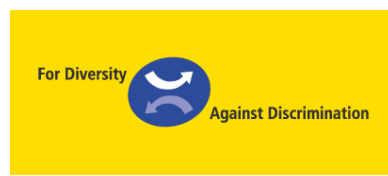
Pat Holmes is Principal Adviser Co-ordinator for West Midlands Education Service for Travelling Children (WMCESTC). She has an education background in schools and teacher training and has held a variety of posts in WMCESTC before becoming its manager in 1986.

In 1980 she founded the National Association of Teachers of Travellers (NATT). Pat has worked for many years within the European Network promoting improved education for Gypsy and Traveller children.

She is co-author, with Christine O'Hanlon, of *"The Education of Gypsy and Traveller Children - towards inclusion and educational achievement"* (Trentham Books: 2004) ISBN 1858562694. Pat has also written contributions in numerous publications and books including *"Home School Work in Multicultural Settings"* ed John Bastiani, (Taylor & Francis: 1997), ISBN 1853464287 and "Fighting Exclusion through ODL" (Open and Distance Learning) in *New Learning* ed Armando Rocha Trindade, (Universidade Aberta, Portugal) ISBN 972-674-325-7

Laura Lundy

Laura Lundy is a Reader in the Graduate School of Education at Queen's University, Belfast and a Barrister at Law. Until October 2003 she was a senior lecturer in the School of Law at



Queen's. She is a former Equal Opportunities Commissioner for Northern Ireland and was chairperson of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's Working Party on Education Rights for the Bill of Rights (2001). In 2003, Laura acted as adviser to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education on her mission to Northern Ireland. She was one of the coordinators of an international exchange programme on the theme of "Gender, Sexuality, Family and Human Rights" in conjunction with Cornell Law School, New York and the Universities of Kingston and York in Canada.

She is a member of the European Education, Law and Policy Association and is on the editorial advisory panel of the *Education Law Journal*. Her research focuses on education law, children's rights and issues of social inclusion. She is the author of *Education Law, Policy and Practice in Northern Ireland* (Belfast: SLS, 2000) as well as numerous articles and reports on education law. She is a member of an inter-disciplinary team which has just completed a major project on children's rights in Northern Ireland for the Northern Ireland Commissioner on Children and Young People.

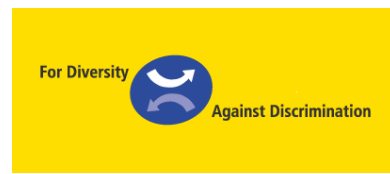
Siobhán McAlister

Siobhán McAlister is currently a researcher working within the Gender Equality Unit of YouthAction NI on an action research project concerning the lives of diverse groups of young women living in Northern Ireland. Prior to this she was a Research Associate within the Institute of Child Care Research at Queen's University, Belfast and one of a team of eight researchers working on research commissioned by the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People examining children's rights in Northern Ireland.

Siobhán's research interests lie primarily in the domain of children and young people and include: the rights of children and young people; gender equality; youth crime and justice; social exclusion and research methods with vulnerable and 'hard to reach' groups.

Robbie McVeigh

Derry-based human rights activist and researcher on racism and sectarianism, equality and human rights. Robbie is the author of *Harassment--It's Part of Life Here: Policing and Young People in Northern Ireland* (1994), *Travellers, Refugees and Racism in Tallaght* (1998), *A Place of Welcome? Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Northern Ireland* (2002), *Between Reconciliation and Pacification: The British State and Community Relations in the North of Ireland* (2002), and *Misli, Crush, Misli: Irish Travellers and Nomadism* (2004); co-editor, with Ronit Lentin, of *Racism and Anti-racism in Ireland* (2002). Recently completed the Research report '*Travellers and Public Education in Northern Ireland*' for the Commission for Racial Equality as part of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia special project "*Roma, Sinti, Gypsies and Travellers in public education*".



Jane Rooney

Jane Rooney is the Education Coordinator with Pavee Point Travellers Centre. Along with her colleague Rosaleen McDonagh she is a member of the Joint Working Group for the Traveller Education Strategy.

Prior to working in Pavee Point she worked as an Account Director in Public Relations Consultancies in Dublin. Jane has worked for many years on a voluntary basis with agencies such as St Vincent de Paul, Galway Social Services and the Outreach programme in University College Dublin.

David Simpson

David Simpson has worked for Save the Children since 1998, as its Assistant Programme Director. He was a member of the PSI working group on Travellers in 2000 and is currently on the Race Forum's Traveller subgroup and on the executive committee of Traveller Movement NI. He represents Save the Children in a strategic partnership with NI Pre-School Playgroup Association and Traveller Movement delivering the Toybox project to Traveller children aged 0-4.