



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Kate Green MP
House of Commons
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Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
Minister for Faith

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16/1/19

Dear Kate,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November regarding the refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan and actions to combat hatred directed at Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

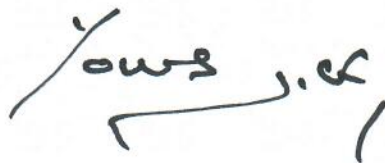
Prejudice, discrimination and hatred experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities is unacceptable, and we are entirely committed to combatting it. There are a number of actions in the refreshed Plan specifically focussed on hatred against these communities. This includes convening our valuable Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Liaison Group, and supporting projects specifically designed at assisting victims.

I am pleased that since the publication of the refresh, we convened the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Liaison Group for a meeting on 4 December. This forum is vital for us to continue to develop our understanding of race-based hatred against these communities, and for us to be able to convey messages of reassurance to communities in times of heightened concern. I should make clear that other Government departments also attend the Liaison Group.

You mentioned some of the projects that we continue to support through our Hate Crime Action Plan refresh, such as the Anne Frank Trust's work in schools. The strength of these projects are that they work in diverse communities and in diverse schools, and highlight the need to combat all forms of hatred. Similarly, on other initiatives such as diversity reporting guidelines for the media, the aim is always to educate and empower key stakeholders to look at difference and prejudice holistically.

On the issue of police reporting of hate crime data, it is not possible to accurately disaggregate data for hate crimes directed at specific racial groups. This is because there are differences in the recording of racially motivated hate crimes across different forces. We continue to work with the police to improve the recording of hate crimes, but this does not prevent Government or the police from responding to hatred against Gypsies, Roma and Travellers appropriately. We are also grateful to dedicated third party organisations such as Herts GATE who provide valuable localised data and continue to help us improve our understanding of and response to this hate crime. We are developing a project with Herts GATE to provide caseworker support in hate crime hotspots in England.

I would like to thank you for the excellent work of the APPG in ensuring that Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are properly considered and represented. The Government is absolutely committed to tackling the inequalities and hatred faced by these communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bourne', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH