

### STEP aims to:

- Improve educational opportunities for Scotland's Travelling people - Gypsies/Travellers, Showmen and other Travellers, more recently including Roma
- Listen to and represent families' views about Education
- Encourage development of a diverse & flexible range of educational opportunities for **all Traveller communities**
- Promote development of inclusive approaches to support diversity in education and to address racism, harassment and bullying
- Enable educators, and others, to respect Scotland's Travelling communities to know about their diverse histories, cultures and traditions, and their contemporary cultural practices and living circumstances
- Promote and support (where possible) inter-agency working between education, accommodation, health, other key social services and governmental agencies.

### STEP works towards these aims by:

- Providing information, advice & support to professionals engaged in enabling Scotland's Travelling families to access education
- Monitoring, reviewing & supporting their access to educational resources
- Carrying out a programme of tasks & research as negotiated with the Scottish Government
- Highlighting & responding to educational issues relating to Scotland's Travelling families in proposed legislation, policy documents & other reports
- Communicating with colleagues across the UK, & internationally through a range of professional, research and Knowledge Transfer activities.

### Staff:

Pauline Padfield: Director of STEP  
Tel: 0131 651 6440  
Email [Pauline.Padfield@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Pauline.Padfield@ed.ac.uk)

Mary Hendry: Associate Director of STEP  
Tel: 0141287 4137  
Email: [mary.hendry@education.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:mary.hendry@education.glasgow.gov.uk)

Tess Watson: e-learning Facilitator  
Tel: 0131 651 6428  
Email: [tess.watson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:tess.watson@ed.ac.uk)

Gillian Cameron: Seconded teacher  
Tel: 0131 651 6428  
Email: [gillian.cameron@fife.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.cameron@fife.gov.uk)

Jean Oliver: Senior Secretary  
Tel: 0131 651 6444  
Email: [jean.oliver@education.ed.ac.uk](mailto:jean.oliver@education.ed.ac.uk)

### Contact:

STEP  
Chessel's Gallery, Area 1  
The Moray House School of Education  
At The University of Edinburgh  
Holyrood Road  
Edinburgh  
EH8 8AQ

Tel: 0131 651 6444  
Email: [step@education.ed.ac.uk](mailto:step@education.ed.ac.uk)

**Please note all staff work part-time; we will get back to you as soon as we are able** do our best to guide you in the right direction.

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.

### SCOTTISH TRAVELLER EDUCATION PROGRAMME (STEP)

[www.scottishtravellered.net](http://www.scottishtravellered.net)

August 2009

Promoting equality in education for Scotland's Travelling Communities



The Moray House School of Education  
The University of Edinburgh



Scottish Government Funded  
Additional Support for Learning- Schools Division  
Equalities Unit



### STEP's remit covers Scotland's Travelling Communities:

Distinguished by their different histories, cultures and family based life-styles. Officially, Scotland's Travelling communities were made up of three main diverse communities - **not** one homogeneous community.

**Gypsies/Travellers** - Officially called Scottish Gypsies/Travellers - the 'I' recognises that people who make up Scotland's indigenous ethnic minority self-define in different ways; some prefer to be called a Gypsy/Traveller, while others prefer to be called a Scottish Traveller.

Scottish Gypsies/Travellers' recent legal recognition as having "ethnic origins" means they have the protection of the 1976 Race Relations Act. Many Scottish Gypsy/Traveller people speak a form of non-standard Scots called 'cant' which includes Gaelic, Old Scots and words that have much in common with Romanes.

**Occupational Travellers** – refers to communities that have a distinctive cultural identity, history and travelling lifestyle and who self-define as business communities. These include Scottish Showmen or travelling show and fairground families who make up the largest community of Occupational Travellers. The term also includes circus and bargee families. These communities do not claim minority ethnic status, and are distinguished from Gypsies/Travellers.

**New Travellers** - these communities organise around political and philosophical issues e.g. ecological issues. Families may borrow from traditional travelling cultures e.g. living in tents or trailers, but do not claim ethnic minority status.

Importantly, having a Traveller identity is not dependent on whether he/she lives a mobile life-style, but on his/her sense of belonging to a Travelling family. Generally, a Traveller's sense of identity is strongly felt and highly valued.

**Changing times: Roma** - since the expansion of the European Community, groups of Romani people, collectively called Roma have come to Scotland and many live in Govanhill, Glasgow. Roma, also not a homogeneous group, may have come to Scotland from the new EU member states (the A8 and A2 countries). Each group has its own history and cultural identity and maybe a distinctive language. Importantly, families identify themselves first in national terms and as Roma e.g. Slovak Roma or Romanian Roma.

Each Roma group has a different way of speaking Romanes, but as some words are similar, Romani people may be able to understand one another.

Educators (along with other policy and professional and public service providers) need to be sensitive to the cultural, and possibly linguistic, differences between these different Traveller communities. Particularly to how those differences impact on a family's willingness and capacity to access educational services designed to meet the needs of a settled population.

### STEP promotes the Traveller Education Network (TENET),

an association of Scottish EA designated teachers, development and community workers and educational support officers.



Members' outreach & interagency working aims to support, encourage and promote Travellers' access to the curriculum, by supporting Traveller families and the schools they attend. TENET members meet quarterly to share good practice. Its final CPD programme for 08/09 addressed Substance abuse. **Contact details** are regularly updated and available for downloading from the website, or by calling STEP.

### My Learning Record - Initial Rapid Assessment Guide (IRAG) – Keeping in Touch leaflet:

our main target audiences for effective use of these resources are teachers and education officers; also representatives from Traveller communities and relevant educational bodies.

Designed to develop good practice in supporting and tracking mobile learners, particularly those passing through or living in education authorities with less well-developed 'education outwith school' services. The SG encourages professionals to support families' use of the My Learning Record as it provides initial curricular transfer information. Feedback and ideas for improvement are welcome! **Contact** STEP for your copies.

**Websites** for children and young people, teachers and other professionals, parents and researchers.

### New this year: <http://www.scottishshowmensguild.co.uk/>

Supported by STEP and Outside the Box (<http://www.otbds.org/>) this website was prepared by the educational liaison officers, Scottish Section Showmen's Guild, and launched by Philip Paris, its Chairman at the opening of Kirkcaldy Links Market 2009.

See information about Article 12 Scotland's Gypsy/Traveller young people's group on [www.article12.org/](http://www.article12.org/) where young people speak for themselves.

**STEP website:** <http://www.scottishtravellered.net>

The STEP website receives worldwide 'hits' and 'returns visits' and is highly rated by a popular and well-researched publication,

**The Travellers' Times:** <http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/>.

**Enquire for young people:** <http://www.enquire.org.uk/yp/>

Designed to help families find support for learning. It is also fun. Travellers can get safely into blogging about getting the most out of their education.

### e-learning community for Scotland's Travelling

**Communities:** The Scottish Government (Equalities Unit) provided a grant to enable STEP to appoint a facilitator, Tess Watson, to manage an exciting **pilot development** involving Internet access to the curriculum for mobile Travelling young people. The pilot e-learning community will be developed and delivered by self-identified EAs, and supported by Glow technologies (<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/glowscotland/>).

The e-learning community will be accessed through a virtual learning environment (VLE) hosted by Glow, Scotland's school's digital network. This exciting initiative will help develop a model of good practice to enhance mobile Travellers' access to a continuous and relevant curriculum. The model of anytime/anywhere access to the curriculum will eventually have relevance for any child or young person who cannot or will not regularly attend school. Since in post a **seminar** has been held to introduce self-identified partners to the project. A similar initiative has operated successfully in England for about five years – called E-LAMP (<http://www.shf.ac.uk/content/1/c6/02/73/58/elamp.doc>).

**New Project** - web-based and paper-based resources to raise awareness about Gypsy/Traveller histories and contemporary life are being prepared for launching in 2009.