

Committee Clerk
Local Government and Housing
Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

Monday 23 September 2024

Dear Committee Clerk,

Subject: Provision of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Sites

I am writing ahead of the planned scrutiny of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip by the Committee on Thursday 3rd October. I wanted to draw your attention to the recently published concluding observations from the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (the CERD Committee).

The UK state party compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination was examined in August 2024. Following this, the CERD Committee published a number of recommendations or concluding observations to both the UK and Welsh Governments.

Bydd y Comisiwn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg.

The Commission welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English.

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the concluding observations note the slow progress towards adequate provision of culturally appropriate sites for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in Wales.

The CERD Committee states:

Ensure the provision of adequate and culturally appropriate accommodation for Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities and create more sites and stopping places for these communities.

Our submission to the CERD Committee states:

We note our concern that despite the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 placing statutory duties on local authorities to provide sites, there has been very little progress in Wales. The Public Services Ombudsman Wales found the Welsh Government had failed to use its powers to ensure two local authorities were taking action to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Travellers.

The UK and Welsh Governments will be expected to report on progress towards meeting the concluding observations during the next examination of the State Party.

I include the full report from the EHRC to the CERD Committee and the concluding observations from the Committee.

I hope this will prove useful as part of evidence gathering for the scrutiny session.

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Equality and
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Commission

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Coombs

Head of Wales

Equality and Human Rights Commission

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