

Draft Conflict Document for Local Traveller Groups

This is proposed text for a Traveller group to develop as a leaflet that can be distributed to the community as part of outreach and begin the conversation about what the project is doing in relation to conflict. As mentioned at the outset in the How to use this website (link) it is vital that Travellers in the area know and endorse the project's role in relation to conflict. This document won't have the space to go into detail- but can be kept as a one-pager that people can have at hand if they want to contact someone to talk to etc.

Traveller Group X's Conflict Management Strategy

We at Traveller group X have been involved in discussions with other members of the Irish Traveller Movement and have developed a conflict strategy.

What do we mean by conflict?

Conflict is a breakdown of communication and relationships. It is not just about violence- although there are times that conflict builds up to the point that violence is used. Conflict is something that happens everyday across the world. People disagree and want different things- that is conflict. How we respond to it is important- can we look at ways that we reduce tension, move away from violence and build communities that communicate better.

Why we are involved?

We know the impact that violence and intimidation and feuding can have. We believe that we can play a role to help people understand how conflict develops. If we all understand conflict we can look to reduce tensions and see about ways to

Our values in relation to conflict

- We are aiming to creating **safe, non-violent** spaces for families to live and bring up their children and improve quality of life.
- We want to improve relationships by creating a climate of trust and dialogue around contentious issues between Traveller and Traveller and between Travellers and the settled community
- We want to build new and healthy ways of dealing with conflict to strengthen relationships between Travellers in our area
- We want to support people to use **non-violent** means of managing conflict to achieve their goals in life.
- One of our key values in relation to conflict is a "no blame" approach. Our role is not to find out who is right or wrong (we aren't judges) but, where possible, to see how we can support people to get what they want without causing harm to others

Useful contact numbers:

(insert as appropriate to your area:)

If you want to talk about conflict in a confidential space, ring (Project Contact number & key person/people)

We can meet in a space that suits you and see what roles we can take to work with anyone involved in a conflict- we are willing to work with anyone on conflict who wants to look at resolving problems- but only if they agree to work with us and not look to violence

If you feel you would like to talk to an independent mediator, (Local Mediation Service, ideally someone who the project knows or who might be on a local response committee)

If you feel that your safety is threatened, you need to call: An Garda Siochana (ideally a senior Garda who has good relationships with the project and community)