



# MECOPP Community Engagement, Participation & Rights

## Supporting Gypsy/Traveller Involvement



## Who are we?

MECOPP is an Edinburgh based charity providing a range of supports and services to informal carers and those in receipt of care across Scotland. We work primarily with communities who experience disadvantage due to ethnicity, age, disability or other protected characteristics.



## Community Engagement, Participation & Rights

Our community engagement and participation workers support Gypsy/Travellers across Scotland to have their voices heard. We work with Gypsy/Travellers of any age who live in housing, on sites or on roadside camps.

Dedicated support is available to Gypsy/Traveller men and women through our 'Men Aloud' worker and our 'Women's Voices' worker respectively.

Our community rights worker is responsible for raising awareness of key rights and entitlements within the Gypsy/Traveller community.

Our training and capacity building worker supports community members to have a lead role in raising the awareness of practitioners and services.

We do not speak on behalf of the community as we believe that Gypsy/Travellers are the experts in their own lives, experiences and aspirations.

# What we do



- ❖ Create opportunities to ensure Gypsy/Travellers are involved in decisions that affect their lives whether this be health and social care, accommodation and housing, education and employment, planning, anti-discrimination and rights-based work.
- ❖ Support the involvement of community members in statutory consultation activities and events.
- ❖ Respond to requests to set up specific engagement activities on issues and concerns brought to us by community members.
- ❖ Support the involvement of community members in research activities.
- ❖ Provide practical support to arrange meetings, note-taking and getting people online.
- ❖ Provide a range of training and learning activities to develop self/collective advocacy skills.
- ❖ Provide information in a variety of ways to support the realisation of rights and entitlements.
- ❖ Develop the skills, confidence and digital capacity of community members to lead on the delivery of training and awareness-raising activities to a wide range of organisations.



# Our Community Engagement, Participation & Rights Team

## ❖ **Shirell Johnson**

Shirell is the Women's Voices  
Development Worker  
07931 555417  
shirell@mecopp.org.uk

## ❖ **Tommy Bennett**

Tommy is the Men Aloud  
Development Worker  
07930 086789  
tommy@mecopp.org.uk

## ❖ **Gil Gillies**

Gil is the Community  
Rights Worker  
07931 555422  
gil@mecopp.org.uk

## ❖ **Peter Ross**

Peter is the National Training  
and Capacity Building  
Worker  
07852 303925  
peter@mecopp.org.uk

Community members can  
contact individual workers  
in confidence. You can also  
contact the Gypsy/Traveller  
Support Service Lead directly.

## ❖ **Suzanne Munday**

Suzanne is the  
Gypsy/Traveller  
Support Service Lead  
07957 652 413  
suzanne@mecopp.org.uk

More information on MECOPP and the  
Gypsy/Traveller Carer Support Service can be found at [www.mecopp.org.uk](http://www.mecopp.org.uk)

## Thank you to our funders



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