



# TRAVELLER MEDIATION SERVICE

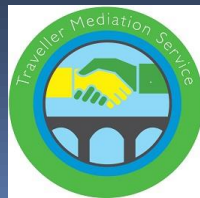
# About us

- The Traveller Mediation Service (TMS) is a partnership initiative, supported by Restorative Justice in the Community (RJC), & funded by the Department of Justice and Equality.
- TMS is based in Athlone, County Westmeath.
- There are two main strands to the work of the Traveller Mediation Service, which broadly can be divided into conflict intervention & conflict prevention work.



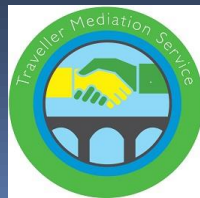
# What We Do

- TMS works to mediate conflicts between Travellers, between Travellers & Agencies, and between Travellers and the Settled Community.
- We work to assist our clients and stakeholders to find ways to prevent, manage, and transform conflicts peacefully and effectively.
- We promote and deliver a number of training programmes in the area of conflict.



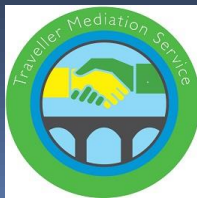
# Peer Mediation Programme, Castlerea prison

- In September 2016, TMS designed and delivered a Peer Mediation Pilot Initiative in Castlerea Prison, training a group of prisoners as peer mediators . The Initiative was independently evaluated, and an Evaluation Report published in May 2017.
- A second peer mediation training programme commenced in Castlerea Prison in Autumn 2017.



# TMS Peer Mediation in Prisons Programme: 2016 to 2019

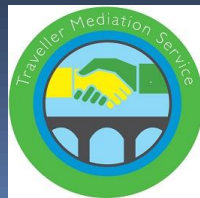
- Castlerea prison
- Loughan house
- The Dochas Centre
- Cork prison
- Midlands prison



# Peer Mediation Programme

## Content

- Listening & communication exercises/circle work
- Exploring the nature of conflict and its effects and consequences
- Exploring personal responses to conflict/individual conflict styles/conflict triggers
- Session on Irish Traveller culture; and on Traveller-related conflict, and how it is distinct from other types of conflicts
- Exercises to demonstrate how conflict escalates & begin to look at de-escalation techniques



# 2016 to 2019

**1**

initiative

**28**

prisoners successfully completed Part 2 certification with external assessment

**190**

prisoners have participated

**2**

prisoners have continued their mediation studies at third level (MU) post-release

**4**

partners

**5**

prisons have taken part

**100**

prisoners with Part 1 certification

**3**

years

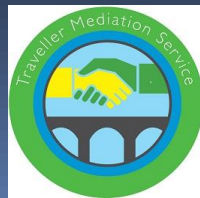
**At least 50%**  
Traveller participation

**9**

prisoners enrolled in Mediation Institute of Ireland (MII) accredited course

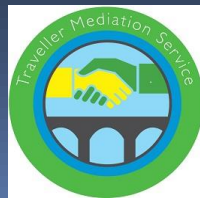
**6**

prisoners completed MII accredited course & are nationally accredited professional mediators



# 2020 to 2021

- From early 2020 until september 2021 we were unable to continue the Peer Mediation in Prisons Programme because of the Covid19 pandemic.
- Since September this year, we have been delivering the PM programme in Portlaoise Prison, and have just started the programme with women prisoners in Limerick Prison.
- We are working with Castlerea on the programme there, and are liaising with Cork prison Midlands, Castlerea, and Loughan House about starting the programme in 2022





# TMS Contacts

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