



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NEW UNIVERSITY  
EST. 1891

# The **GTRSB**intoHE PLEDGE

- Pledge formally launched January 2021 with 5 full signatory 'pathfinder' HEIs
- Summer 2021 (8 signatories – 7 HEIs and 1 FE College) and at least five more Universities are in the process of seeking approval/near sign-off in the next few months
- One Professional Association as a Signatory – GRTSW Assn other professional associations intending to follow this lead.
- The Network has now grown to 104 members from communities, HEIs and NGOs spread across the country and we are beginning to see the triangulated approach work in practice – GTRSB students, community (or other) mentors within HEIs, professional mentors for those on programmes such as Social Work etc and HEI wrap-around packages of bursaries/staff training and supportive environments/inclusive curricula coming to fruition.
- We continue to receive regular enquiries from additional HEIs; FE colleges; schools and local authorities re the Pledge and what it means for them/adaptation and processes of sign-up



**GTRSB**  
GYPSIES TRAVELLERS ROMA SHOWMEN BOATERS  
INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

**#GTRSBintoHigherEd**



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NEW UNIVERSITY  
EST. 1891

## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE PLEDGE

- Co-production /collaboration between communities/NGOs, Universities and Colleges tailored and adapted to local circumstances and populations.
- “The Pledge” as an Organic, Living Response to a Social Justice Issue embedded in an participatory activist paradigm
- Collective focus on enhancing and developing ‘networks of practice’ between GRTSB students & graduates; communities/NGOs and universities/colleges to develop good practice which supports GTRSB people into and within Higher Education.



# GTRSB

GYPSIES TRAVELLERS ROMA SHOWMEN BOATERS  
INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

#GTRSBintoHigherEd



## Core Elements of the 'Pledge'

Requires commitment at highest level – e.g. VC/Principal etc to ensure institutional support

Light touch 'monitoring' – complete a survey each year to say what has done and where an institution might require more support

No cost to 'take the pledge'/join the **Network**

Membership of the network encourages dissemination of activities/support from peers/community members/ sharing of good practice etc.

Potential to collaborate with network members on designing materials, shaping/providing input to training programmes, developing local/regional partnerships etc.





BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NEW UNIVERSITY  
EST. 1891

## **Core requirements I (additional good practice suggestions/stretch targets on website)**

### **DATA GATHERING**

Monitoring the number of Gypsy, Roma, Traveller students and staff currently at the university (nb: stretch target to include Showmen and Boaters per OfS briefing)

Evaluating year on year trends in these numbers

### **INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE**

Designating a key named contact for working with GTRSB students to oversee workstreams/ attend regular training/EDI meetings

Encouraging the formation of GRT student and staff societies, possibly in local or regional groups of HEIs





## **Core requirements 2 (additional good practice suggestions/stretch targets on website)**

### **OUTREACH**

Having a distinct stream of work which focuses on GRTSB students within widening participation activities

Strengthening links to schools/FE colleges or NGOs working with local GTRSB communities

Developing/expanding mentoring opportunities for GTRSB graduates/students to work with community members who are considering entering HE

### **INCLUSION, CELEBRATION & COMMEMORATION**

Foreground GRT inclusion and culture within the university (e.g. events such as GRT History Month, Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day, visibility in posters, curricula inclusion, etc.)







BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NEW UNIVERSITY  
EST. 1891

## **Keep in Touch and Find Out More:**

<https://bucks.ac.uk/about-us/gtrsb-into-higher-education-pledge>

[Sherrie.Smith@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:Sherrie.Smith@bucks.ac.uk)

[Margaret.Greenfields@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:Margaret.Greenfields@bucks.ac.uk)



# GTRSB

GYPSES TRAVELLERS ROMA SHOWMEN BOATERS  
INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

**#GTRSBintoHigherEd**