

Peer Mediation in prison programme

2016-2019 in figures



In 2016, the Traveller Mediation Service (TMS), Travellers in Prison Initiative (TPI), the Education and Training Board and staff of Castlerea Prison (a closed, medium security prison for adult males in Roscommon with a high Traveller prison population) collaborated to deliver a pilot peer mediation programme in the prison. This was led by Traveller prisoners in Castlerea but was open to settled prisoners too. Since this first pilot, the programme has been repeated across a number of prisons – this info-graphic highlights the key outputs from this programme in its first three years.

From one initiative in 2016, the programme has reached 190 prisoners, at least half of whom are Travellers. Many of these have received certification, some have progressed to become certified mediators, and others have continued their studies at third level on release (in Maynooth University/ Education and Training Board programme with the Edward Kennedy Institute).

Conflict coaching and mediation on a peer basis is now available in five prisons as a result of this programme. As prisoner participants are released, the impact of the mediation skills training has begun to extend into the broader community.

Project partners

- Traveller Mediation Service
- Travellers in Prison Initiative
- Education and Training Board
- the Irish Prison Service

<http://travellermediation.ie/>