It is no longer a crime to be Roma Gypsy and Roma are protected by the human rights act. In the UK they are legally seen as equal citizens.

"In some countries, people are being spat at on the street. There are political parties who are openly saying that Roma should be attacked in vigilante groups. However Romani gypsies still remain one of the most persecuted groups in Europe. Many stereotypes still exist and misunderstandings and ignorance surrounding their culture and their lives. Closing down of Traveller sites and increased pressure to settle still cause tension and discrimination to the Roma way of life.

During and after the industrial revolution much of the manual farm work and factory work was mechanised. This lead too many Romani moving from rural locations to urban areas in search for Jobs.

With the changes to the UK landscape Romani migration has adapted. Many Romani still live either a Nomadic or semi nomadic lifestyle however up to 50% now live in permanent residences.

Traditional stopping places have disappeared under tarmac or have been built upon. For those stopping places that still exist, there is competition from other traveller families. There is stiff competition too for the permanent sites from those who want to give up the travelling life but wish to remain amongst those who share their culture.

Due to site provision and enforced settlement, full economic nomadism is being replaced by mobility from a semi-fixed base. Improved transport makes it possible to work in a relatively large area from a fixed base, without having to move the whole family so often, and Gypsies/Travellers have adopted the use of the mobile telephone very extensively. The truly geographically mobile trader can gain significant advantages in price differences and availability of goods in different areas, as well as capitalise on untapped markets for his goods and services.

Work opportunities have also diminished as farming methods have changed dramatically since the early half of the 20th century. There has also been a sharp decline in trading of horses. Few of the old horse fairs remain. Even so the pilgrimage to Appleby's in Westmorland and Stow-on-the-Wold each year to show off their horses and set up market stalls.

Demands for handmade crafts although have diminished but there is still a market for hand crafted baskets and pegs. Occupations have changed to fit the modern age. Recycling, car mechanics, demolition building contracting, market traders.

The Pentecostal movement has swept through British Romani communities. The Gypsy led Light and Life Church and Gypsies for Christ hold conventions under canvas that attract hundreds of converts each year.

Romani people predominately practice Christianity. Romani people believe in Devla (God) and Beng (The Devil). Some Romani people adhere to paganism and Hinduism.
Some may continue to learn skills for their fathers but others will attend college to gain both practical experience and formal qualifications.

It is no longer unusual to find gypsies with diplomas university degrees or doctorates because settlement has enabled education for those who are able to access it to be continued into adulthood.

In February 2008, On Road Media was commissioned by Media for Development to set up a network for young gypsies and travellers, Savvy Chavvy. The project was funded by Medibux and led by Unltd - and we provided its users with training, equipment and on-going support. "Chavvy" is a Romany word for a young person and the young people of the network participated in all stages of its development, including the naming of the network.

The Gypsy Council is involved in a wide spectrum of support and liaison work, supporting gypsy families in planning applications and their fight for decent legal places to live. They liaise and mediate with government bodies, County and District authorities, Health and Social Services, police and legal advisors, education departments and schools, and lobby politicians and political parties for the rights of gypsy people. They also offer an advice service to gypsy people, students and others on many different issues and are a main point of contact for both national and local media.

In 2008, "bohemian", a colourful, tousled fusion of gypsy, ethnic and vintage clothes, was the look that celebrities chose to wear. The gypsy culture is an unspoken trend that is increasing in popularity day by day.

Many Roma choose to dress in modern clothes as well as traditional gypsy clothes depending on the occasion. In the same way that anyone would choose what to wear to a wedding or to wear to the beach!

From words to the music, the gypsy culture is so powerful that it has influenced the popular music scene with a distinct rise in "gypsy sounds" across Europe over the last few years. Groups such as Gogol Bordello fusion traditional Romany music with punk to create their increasingly popular sound.

The 300,000 Roma and Travellers in the UK are settled rather than travelling. As Travellers' Times contributor Jake Bowers told the BBC, about half of Britain's GRT community live in permanent housing, while others live on authorised public caravan sites or private camp sites with permission for long term stays, all of which are subject to council tax and utility payments.

Romani can live in any type of housing. Even if someone chooses to live in a house it does not stop them from being Romani.

'Anglo-Romani' is a term used to describe usage of words of Romani origin within English conversation. The original Romani language was spoken in England until the late nineteenth century; perhaps a generation longer in Wales. It was replaced by English as the everyday and family language of British Romani, but this does not mean the language disappeared entirely. Words of Romani origin were still used as part of a family-language. Words which are occasionally inserted into English conversation are referred to in linguistic literature on Romani as 'Para-Romani': the selective retention of some Romani-derived vocabulary following the disappearance of Romani as an everyday language of conversation.

Many rules and customs around hygiene still exist in the Romani community.

These traditions rules and customs are as important to nomadic/semi-nomadic Romani.

Some of these rules no longer apply to static/settled Romani. But many of them still do.