



CENTRAL COUNCIL of German Sinti & Roma

Alliance against Antigypsyism

*Combating antigypsyism in the post-2020 EU Roma
Framework*
Recommendations



ROMA EXCLUSION IN EUROPE
DO YOU KNOW, DO YOU CARE

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Alliance against Antigypsyism

The Alliance against Antigypsyism is an occasional coalition of organizations that promote equality of rights for Roma. The aim of the Alliance is to advance the understanding of antigypsyism as the specific form of racism towards Roma, Sinti, Travellers and other groups that are routinely stigmatized as ‘gypsies’ in Europe’s public and political domain. Learn more about the Alliance at

www.antigypsyism.eu



CENTRAL COUNCIL [of German Sinti & Roma]

This paper is a result of the work led by ERGO Network and Central Council for German Sinti and Roma drafted with the technical assistance of Roma and pro-Roma organisations: European Network against Racism (Belgium), Sozialfabrik (Germany), National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups (NFGLG, UK), Center for Policy Studies (CPS – CEU, Hungary), Life Together (The Czech Republic), Romano Centro (Austria), Documentation Centre (Germany), RROMA (Macedonia), Roma Active Albania, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC, Belgium), Roma Education Fund (REF, Budapest), La Voix des Roms (France), Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG, Spain), European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC, Germany), Slovo 21 (The Czech Republic), Jaw Dikh Foundation (Poland), Pavee Point (Ireland), Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas de Cataluña – FAGiC (Spain), Romanipe (Canada), Centre de Médiation des Gens du Voyage et des Roms (Belgium), Open Society Policy Institute (OSEPI, Belgium), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA, Belgium), Eurodiaconia (Belgium), Romo Drom (The Czech Republic).

I. Introduction - Why focus on combating antigypsyism in post-2020 EU Roma Framework?

There are many examples of recent antigypsyist² acts in almost all the European countries. In Belgium, for example, a huge police action took place in the morning of 7 May 2019 resulting in a massive arrest of Belgian Roma Travellers accused of trafficking of illegally obtained vehicles. The last action of this kind took place during the Second World War when 351 Roma Travellers from Belgium were transported to Auschwitz Birkenau. Today we see again a targeted action of the federal police towards the entire Roma Travellers community in Belgium. The situation in France in relation to antigypsyism is also dire, members of the Roma community are being targeted in racial attacks. On March 16th this year a rumour first appeared on social media platforms causing a series of attacks to be carried out against members of the Roma community. Since the attacks started, a Roma organization La Voix des Roms and its partners have recorded 38 assaults: assault and battery in the street, death threats, shots near living quarters, arson, etc. Today Bulgaria also has a problem to ensure equality, justice and protection of its Roma ethnic minority. Attacks on Roma neighborhoods are organized repeatedly. Slovakia, Hungary and Czech Republic are book examples of structural antigypsyism that resulted in infringement procedures, yet we see no results of these processes.

The EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020³ was launched in 2011. In December 2018, the Commission published a Communication⁴ reporting on the mid-term evaluation of the EU Roma Framework.⁵ The evaluation shows that the Framework has

¹ This paper is a short version of another Alliance against Antigypsyism' publication - *POLICY PAPER: Developing Measures to Combat Antigypsyism after 2020: Guidance for European and National Stakeholders*, available at the Alliance against Antigypsyism Webpage: <http://antigypsyism.eu/>. The longer version provides more information while it focuses not only on the recommendations, but also on proposing concrete measures to combat antigypsyism in the post-2020 period.

² Read more about the working definition of antigypsyism in: Alliance against Antigypsyism, *Antigypsyism - A Reference Paper*, June 2017, available at <http://antigypsyism.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Antigypsyism-reference-paper-16.06.2017.pdf>.

³ European Commission, "COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS An EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020", 2011, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1444910104414&uri=CELEX:52011DC0173>

⁴ European Commission, "COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Report on the evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020", 2018, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1544112037077&uri=CELEX:52018DC0785>

⁵ European Commission, "COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT: Evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 - Accompanying the document COMMUNICATION FROM THE

been important for the development of EU and national instruments and structures promoting Roma inclusion, while it also highlights that antigypsyism continues to be *a matter of high concern that has not been addressed*. Alliance against Antigypsyism⁶ is of a strong opinion that the post-2020 EU Roma Framework and future targeted policies/measures of the Member States and enlargement countries should include the fight against antigypsyism as a specific objective as well as a horizontal priority of the traditional areas of education, employment, health and housing. With this paper, the Alliance offers *recommendations to combat antigypsyism*, which can help the policy makers to be comprehensive and make sure that no dimension or manifestation of antigypsyism is omitted. In addition, this paper aims to inspire a variety of European and national stakeholders to contribute to combating antigypsyism.

II. Policy Recommendations to Combat Antigypsyism

The EC evaluation as well as the results of the Roma Civil Monitor project also emphasize that the future policy processes must start properly addressing diversity among Roma, in particular in relation to Roma migrants, EU mobile Roma, Roma children and Roma women, both when it comes to the participation of these groups and specific policy measures. Based on Roma peoples' experiences, advocacy work of Roma and pro-Roma civil society, relevant recommendations adopted by the European Parliament, the EC evaluation of the EU Roma Framework and other relevant documents, Alliance against Antigypsyism proposes the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Recognise the existence of antigypsyism

EU institutions and national governments should officially recognise the existence of antigypsyism in all its manifestations and dimensions, including institutional antigypsyism.

Recommendation 2: Recognise the historical responsibility

EU institutions and national governments should recognise the historical dimension of antigypsyism and demonstrate responsibility of the institutions towards Romani communities.

COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL - Report on the evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020", 2018, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1544109661990&uri=CELEX%3A52018SC0480>

⁶ Alliance against Antigypsyism is an occasional coalition of organizations that promote equality of rights for Roma. The aim of the Alliance is to advance the understanding of antigypsyism as the specific form of racism towards Roma, Sinti, Travellers and other groups that are routinely stigmatized as 'gypsies' in Europe's public and political domain. Learn more about the Alliance at http://antigypsyism.eu/?page_id=55.

Recommendation 3: Improve the institutional and policy framework

EU institutions and national governments should enhance and implement institutional and policy frameworks to fight antigypsyism as the root cause of social exclusion.

Recommendation 4: Collect data and monitor antigypsyism

EU institutions and national governments should strengthen the research and monitoring of antigypsyism to investigate the causes, manifestations and effects of antigypsyism.

Recommendation 5: Condemn and fight hate speech in the public discourse and media

EU institutions and national governments should counter and sanction hate-speech in public discourses: in the media, academia, among politicians, state authorities and civil servants, in particular by fostering counter-narratives for inclusive society and by ensuring the non-tokenistic participation of Roma in supervisory structures.

Recommendation 6: Sanction and punish antigypsyist crime

National governments should apply all available tools and mechanisms to prevent and/or prosecute hate crimes motivated by antigypsyism.

Recommendation 7: Support victims and enable access to justice

National governments should ensure access to justice for Roma facing discrimination, hate speech and hate crime and support the victims.

Recommendation 8: Improve and implement anti-discrimination legislation

EU institutions and national governments should improve the anti-discrimination legislation and policies aiming at fostering equal treatment of Roma. Roma are particularly affected by the lack of effective implementation of court judgements and infringement procedures.

Recommendation 9: End all forms of structural antigypsyism in all parts of society

EU institutions and national governments should address and end any form of structural antigypsyism, including all forms of segregation, forced evictions, environmental injustice and other manifestations of antigypsyism in education, employment, health and housing.

Recommendation 10: Enable free movement

EU institutions and national governments should ensure the right to the freedom of movement for all European citizens and should end any forms of antigypsyism that limits the citizens' rights to dignified lives.

Recommendation 11: Antigypsyism – a ground for seeking asylum, refugees and internal displacements

EU institutions and national governments should recognize that the catastrophic situation of internally displaced Roma and Roma returnees to the Western Balkan countries contributes to worsening the situation, thus increasing migration pressure in a vicious circle.

Recommendation 12: Strengthen Roma leadership, participation, empowerment and self-organisation

EU institutions and national governments should treat Roma, Sinti and other groups experiencing antigypsyism as equal partners in all stages of the policy cycle, including agenda setting and policy formation; they should also support self-organisation and other forms of empowerment, including promoting leadership and recruiting Roma, including women, for high-level positions in public administrations at all levels.

III. Key EU policies and legislative documents, reports and studies that contribute to the debate (non-exhaustive list)

1. Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM), “Thematic report on combating anti-gypsyism, hate speech and hate crime against Roma”, 2013, available at <http://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016800890fb&format=native>
2. Alliance against Antigypsyism, “Antigypsyism - A Reference Paper”, 2017, available at <http://antigypsyism.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Antigypsyism-reference-paper-16.06.2017.pdf>
3. Center for European Policy Studies, “Combating Institutional Anti-Gypsyism: Responses and promising practices in the EU and selected Member States”, 2017, available at <https://www.ceps.eu/publications/combating-institutional-anti-gypsyism-responses-and-promising-practices-eu-and-selected>
4. European Commission, “COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT: Evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 - Accompanying the document COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL - Report on the evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020”, 2018, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1544109661990&uri=CELEX%3A52018SC0480>
5. European Commission, “COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Report on the evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020”, 2018, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1544112037077&uri=CELEX:52018DC0785>
6. European Commission, “COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS An EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020”, 2011, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1444910104414&uri=CELEX:52011DC0173>

7. European Commission, EU High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, “Antigypsyism: Increasing its Recognition to Better Understand and Address its Manifestations”, 2018, available at https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?doc_id=55652
8. European Parliament, “Fundamental rights aspects in Roma integration in the EU: fighting anti-Gypsyism”, 2017, available at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P8-TA-2017-0413&language=EN&ring=A8-2017-0294>
9. European Parliament, “Motion for a resolution on the need for a strengthened post-2020 Strategic EU Framework for National Roma Inclusion Strategies and stepping up the fight against anti-Gypsyism”, 2019, available at https://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B8-2019-0098&format=XML&language=EN&fbclid=IwAR2rYlp8PQr_hLht29UQuXg-grgsnKjb3b_XTekwAgUWTOF7JbDdW5yk1WQ
10. European Parliament, “Scaling up Roma Inclusion Strategies; Truth, reconciliation and justice for addressing antigypsyism”, 2019, available at [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/608859/IPOL_STU\(2019\)608859_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/608859/IPOL_STU(2019)608859_EN.pdf)
11. Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, 2008, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A133178>
12. Fundamental Rights Agency, “A persisting concern: anti-Gypsyism as a barrier to Roma inclusion”, 2018, available at <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/roma-inclusion>
13. The Race Equality Directive, 2000, available at [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-07-257_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-07-257_en.htm?locale=en)
14. The Roma civil monitor pilot project, “A synthesis of civil society’s reports on the implementation of national Roma integration strategies in the European Union”, 2018, available at <https://cps.ceu.edu/sites/cps.ceu.edu/files/attachment/basicpage/3034/rcm-civil-society-monitoring-report-1-synthesis27-2017-eprint-fin.pdf>