



## STATEMENT

### **ERIO condemns the climate of anti-Roma hate and violence in Czech Republic**

**Brussels, 10 April 2019**

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) expresses its deep concern over the recent case of violence against Roma in Czech Republic.

On 4 April in Dvorec, following an affair of assault committed by Roma, the girlfriend of the victim organized a demonstration which grew into violent attacks against the Roma family. On 7 April, in Lipník nad Běčvou and in Dvorec, two adults brutally assaulted Roma children as they were playing in a park. Five children have been verbally and physically assaulted in total, while two of them have been hospitalized.

ERIO is particularly concerned that this incident in Czech Republic is not an isolated case. We recall that a few weeks ago, violence has been committed against Roma in France. We can observe a rise in anti-Roma and anti-Gypsyism sentiments all across Europe. This climate of violence and hatred against Roma is impeding them from living in regular and safe conditions.

We call on all Czech, as well as European politicians, media, and public entities to stop and condemn anti-Roma discourses that defame Roma community and eventually incite acts of violence. We urge the Czech government to take actions in consequence of this intolerable incident, especially when minors are involved. A full investigation must be carried out for both affairs, as the dignity and the fundamental rights of the protagonists are at stake.

**For more information, please contact:** Tel: +32 273 33 462, E-mail: [office@erionet.eu](mailto:office@erionet.eu)

#### **Note to the editor:**

**The European Roma Information Office (ERIO)** is a European advocacy organisation which promotes political and public discussion on Roma issues by providing information to the EU institutions, civil society and governments. Through its wide network, it aims to combat racist discrimination against Roma through awareness raising, lobbying and policy development.

[www.erionet.eu](http://www.erionet.eu) - [www.facebook.com/erionet.eu](https://www.facebook.com/erionet.eu) - [www.twitter.com/ERIO\\_EU](https://www.twitter.com/ERIO_EU)