

The Roma situation in Europe

Advocacy training

“Learn how to fight for your rights”

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European Roma Information Office

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Who are the Roma?

- Diverse community, many groups, dialects and religions
- From India, they have been living in Europe for more than a century
- 6 millions in the EU (12 millions in Europe)
- 80% of Roma in Europe is settled
- They share centuries of persecution, violence and discrimination

**It's more than the:
The Irish population
(4.591.087 people)**

OR

**The peoples of
Luxembourg, Malta,
Cyprus, Estonia and
Lettonia together**

Discrimination

- Crime victims:
 - > 10% were attacked or threatened at least once during the previous year
 - > 1 in 5 was victim of gross harassment at least once during the previous year
 - > 18% have experienced at least one "racist" aggression, threat or gross harassment
 - > Discrimination in access to education, employment, health care and housing

Education

- Unequal access to quality education
- Discrimination and racial segregation
- “Special schools”: 32% (Czech Rep.) and 12% (Slovakia) are Roma children
- Compulsory education (7-15 years old):
 - > Important differences between Roma and non-Roma children. Not educated: 35% (EL), 20%-25% (RO), 15% (BG), +10% (FR, IT)
- Secondary education:
 - > 1/10 Roma has completed it (PT, EL, ES, FR, RO), 1/3 (CZ)

Employment

- Roma are often disadvantaged
- The number of unemployed Roma doubles the number of non-Roma; in the Czech Rep. and Slovakia this is 4 to 5 times higher
- 50% of Roma felt discriminated when applying for a job because of their ethnicity

Housing

- ◉ Many Roma live in deprived conditions in extreme poverty:
 - > RO, BG and PL: ghettos where houses do not have sanitation, running water, waste disposal, sewers with leaking roofs
- ◉ Residential segregation (BG, CY, CZ, FR, EL, HU, IT, LI, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL and ES)
- ◉ Socially disadvantaged areas, poor quality housing (BE, PT and SE)
- ◉ Discrimination in access to housing:
 - > Access is denied for renting public and private housing, sometimes house sales are denied
 - > Access to social housing
 - > Eviction decisions or other invasive measures

Health care

- Unequal access to health care
- Roma life expectancy is shorter than that of non-Roma
- Higher infant mortality rates
- Obstacles: lack of information, language, financial obstacles, unregistered housing and discrimination
- Discrimination
 - > In BG and HU pregnant women are separated from other women in maternity wards - sometimes called “Roma wards”
 - > Denial of treatment by urgent care services

Thank you!

European Roma Information Office

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