Hate Speech at Primary School Gjorgji Sugarev in Bitola (21/01/2017)

By Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia

An informal citizens’ group – representatives of the Roma community from Bitola and citizens’ associations representing Roma rights express their serious concerns about the drawings of swastikas and the inscribed graffiti "Death to Gypsies" and "Die Gypsies" on the walls of Gjorgji Sugarev School in Bitola.

Namely, the graffiti were noticed on 19.01.2017 and they call for the violence against the Roma community, i.e. they represent hate speech, which is a criminal act under the Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia.

Read more here.

Death threats against Roma celebrity (1/02/2017)

By Romea.cz

In February, Czech policemen are continuing to investigate death threats against the Roma singer Radek Banga; these threats appeared on his Facebook profile after he publicly criticized the success of the xenophobic band Ortel in a music competition.

Not only that, after the publication of Radek Banga’s story by the ROMEA organization, racists have also attacked the ROMEA organization by threatening to set the office on fire; and they also threatened Radek Banga’s brother. The criminal report has been shelved by police that stated it did not amount to felony. As a consequence, no prosecution under the Criminal code could be set out.

Read more here.
Hate speech against Roma in political discourse (2/02/2017)

By WN

In January 2017, the Slovak Prime Minister, Robert Fico, spoke during a debate on a news station about Roma people discussing the fact that firms today have a problem finding employees in Slovakia. He declared: “we have a category of people here, and I am not speaking just about Gypsies, who do not want to work, who abuse the social welfare system, and who even bother the people next to whom they live. We are intervening against the people who are sucking this state dry”.

Read more here.

Jean-Marie Le Pen found guilty of inciting racial hatred after he described a group of Roma gipsies as 'smelly' (28/02/2017)

By The Daily Mail

Jean-Marie Le Pen has been convicted of inciting racial hatred by calling Roma gipsies ‘smelly’. He was ordered to pay a fine equivalent to just over £4,000 for the outburst.

Sonny Phung, of the anti-racism group SOS Racisme – one of the complainants – said: ‘Jean-Marie Le Pen's words were extremely serious and an open call to hate and ethnic discrimination.’

French cities such as Nice and Paris have large Roma communities living in makeshift camps, and there are frequent efforts made to raze them.

Most of the inhabitants come from Romania or Bulgaria, and are European Union passport holders, but they are still regularly stigmatised because of their links with organised crime, including gangs of street thieves.

Read more here.
Slovak neo-Nazi and MP Milan Mazurek prosecuted for racist remarks about Roma
(21/03/2017)

By Romea.cz

During an interview with the Frontinus radio station in Žilina, the Slovak MP Milan Mazurek made abusive remarks against the Roma. "We don't need to pour EUR 300 million for seven or eight years into just one community, to build playgrounds in the gypsy settlements so they can break the equipment, to build preschools so they can destroy them, we don't need to teach them to dance or to use a computer, we need to put them to work," he said. Then, he continued: “EUR 150 million will be used just for houses in those gypsy settlements, for people who have made no contributions to our culture, to our nation, or to our state budget - exactly the opposite, they have decided to live an asocial lifestyle and have sucked our social welfare system dry, ".

A detective of the National Criminal Agency (NAKA) began a criminal proceeding against him on the grounds of defamation, hatred incitement and people’s threaten because of their ethnicity, nationality, colour... since January, NAKA took over the case. The radio station broadcasting the interview is undergoing troubles, too.

Read more here.

Anti-Roma statements in European Parliament (7/04/2018)

By ENAR

On 5 April during a plenary debate on Roma in the European Parliament, three Members of European Parliament made racist, stigmatising and divisive statements targeting Europe’s Roma population. In addition, it has been revealed that the European Commission is blocking a report calling for sanctions against Italy for housing discrimination against the Roma, in breach of EU anti-discrimination laws. This sends an extremely negative signal that anti-discrimination laws can be breached at will by Member States without consequences. Indeed, the Italian municipality of Naples is set to forcibly evict hundreds of Roma from a settlement.

These are not isolated cases but symptomatic of the structural discrimination which Roma face across Europe, and of anti-Roma political discourses prevalent in many EU Member States, which fuel discrimination and violence against Roma.

Read more here.
Czech President, Deputy Ombudsman made xenophobic statements (21/04/2017)

*By Romea.cz*

During the first quarter of 2017 the In IUSTITIA organization was contacted by members of the public to report a total of 22 hate incidents on the territory of the Czech Republic in which people were targeted by various forms of bias violence because of their actual or perceived homelessness, nationality, political convictions, religion or skin color. Muslims and Romani people were among the most-endangered groups.

Read more [here](#).

France: Journalist sentenced to six months for racist articles about immigrants from the Maghreb and Romani people (25/04/2017)

French journalist Rodolphe Crevelle was convicted to 6 months of jail and fined 20000 euros for inciting discrimination against Roma. The verdict was ensued on April 2017 and related some racist remarks showed up on the *Petit journal Catalan*, whose publisher has been fined and sentenced to two months prison. In this article, Crevelle referred to Roma as "former chicken thieves who abuse social contributions and welfare support today."

Read more [here](#).

Police charge two lawmakers from Slovak far-right party with extremism (29/04/2017)

*By Reuters*

Slovakia’s police said on Saturday they have charged two members of parliament from a far-right People’s Party-Our Slovakia with extremism for hate speech against the Roma, the Jews and Islam.

If found guilty, they are facing up to six years in prison, according to the penal code.

Right-wing and anti-immigrant parties have been on the rise across Europe after years of slow economic growth and the arrival of more than a million migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa.

Read more [here](#).
**Slovak MP charged with insulting Roma**

*By Romea.cz*

Milan Mazurek, member of the Slovak fascist Kotleba-People’s Party Our Slovakia (Lidová strana Naše Slovensko - LSNS), was charged for his xenophobic remarks on 28 April 2017. He was accused of insulting Roma and threatening people because of their ethnic group and race. One year ago, on a radio station programme, he referred to Roma “in terms of their alleged inadaptability, vandalism, violence and welfare enrolments, insulting them”.

The radio station has already been fined 15000 euros for broadcasting Mazurek’s statements, since dissemination of hate speech based on ethnicity is out of law.

Read more [here](#).

**Hate speech in Serbia reminiscent of 1990s (16/05/2017)**

*By b92*

In a new report by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), a human rights body of the Council of Europe (CoE) states that "Despite progress in anti-discrimination legislation, strong efforts to reconcile with the war past, and improvement of the situation of Roma, much needs to be done in Serbia to address the continued rise in hate speech, fight racism among sports fans, protect Roma and LGBT persons and step up the prosecution of war crimes".

"Violence against Roma continues. In addition, only six percent of Roma children attend preschool and only 46 percent complete compulsory education; in important parts of the public services, not a single Roma is employed. The efforts to improve the distressing housing conditions are insufficient, and 72 percent of all Roma settlements are still informal".

Read more [here](#).
Slovak authorities move to ban far-right party (25/05/2017)

By Digital Journal

Prosecutors in Slovakia have asked the EU country's Supreme Court to ban a far-right party that has become the third most popular political group, saying it is working to subvert democracy.

The party, known as Kotleba-People's Party Our Slovakia (LSNS), has campaigned heavily against letting migrants into the country, and won seats in parliament for the first time in March 2016.

Hostile to both Slovakia's sizable Roma minority and the established elite, he was repeatedly detained and charged with hate speech, chiefly against Roma, before becoming an MP.

Read more here.

Greek Riot Police Stop Angry Crowd From Attacking Roma Community (12/06/2018)

By The Greek Reporter

Greek riot police on Sunday stopped angry crowds of Menidi, Attica residents who tried to attack a Roma community, after the accidental death of an 11-year-old boy by a stray bullet fired by a Roma.

About 200 people held a protest rally for the death of the child who was killed by a stray bullet during an open-air gymnastics exhibition for schoolchildren on Thursday. Later it was found out that a 23-year-old Roma was firing shots in the air that day and he is suspected of being responsible for the fatal shot.

During the rally, a group of people broke off from the protesters and threw firebombs at the community, causing damages to two homes. Police responded with tear gas, causing a clash with protesters.

Read more here.
Bulgarian MEP Accused of Hate Speech Against Roma (18/07/2017)

By Balkan Insight

An online petition is calling on the European Parliament to penalise Bulgarian MEP Angel Dzhambazki for allegedly spreading “aggressive anti-Roma propaganda” in the parliament, in the media and on social networks.

The organisers of the petition, hosted on the Avaaz platform, aim to collect 1,000 signatures, which would then be sent to the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani.

The MEP stirred fresh controversy recently with comments on cases in which citizens of Bulgaria suffered injuries or were killed following conflicts with citizens of Roma origin.

Read more here and here.

Czech video goes viral of man telling girl to beat pillow with baseball bat and imagine it’s a "Gypsy or a Muslim" (4/08/2017)

By Romea.cz

On the 4 August, a video went viral on Facebook showing a man - probably the father - encouraging a little girl to bash a pillow with a baseball bat while imagining it to be a "Gypsy or a Muslim".

This episode represents a clear case of incitement to hate violence towards Roma and Muslim people. In September, the man was charged for committing felony incitement of hatred against a group or restriction of their rights and freedoms, and for endangering the upbringing of a child. He is facing up to three years in prison, if convicted.

Read more here.

New Scottish Tory MP slammed for anti-Gypsy attack (23/08/2017)

By Open Democracy

New Moray MP Douglas Ross has been slammed by Amnesty International and Traveller groups after saying that his top-priority is “tougher enforcement against Gypsies”.

Read more here.
Appointment of a Racist to Lead on Roma Inclusion in Bulgaria (30/08/2018)

*By Balkanist*

For four months there has been neither comment nor condemnation from the EU over the appointment in Bulgaria of Patriotic Front henchman, Valeri Simeonov, to lead the National Council on Co-operation on Ethnic and Integration Issues. In an open letter on May 29, nearly 400 Bulgarian human rights activists and intellectuals denounced the appointment of a “pronounced supporter of fascist and neo-Nazi ideology.”

Simeonov, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, infamously declared in parliament that the Roma, “are brazen, feral, human-like creatures that demand pay without work, and collect sickness benefits without being sick. They receive child benefits for children that play with pigs on the street, and for women that have the instincts of stray dogs.”

Read more [here](#).

We Travellers must take a stand against racism, for the sake of our children (13/09/2017)

*By The Guardian*

It is almost 17 years to the day since I won a historic case that established in law that Irish Travellers are an ethnic minority and entitled to the same protections as other ethnic minorities in Britain.

Four out of five of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people who took part in the research said they had experienced hate crime or hate speech. But, as the government acknowledges, few incidents are reported by these communities.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Insulting remark of the Deputy Trade Minister on Facebook

*By Romea.cz*

In September, Karel Novotný, the Czech Deputy Trade Minister running for Parliament for the Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD) in the Ústecký Region, has posted on Facebook that Romani people are like jellyfish because they are "poisonous and useless". He will be losing 3 months of his salary as a result.

Read more [here](#).
Sharp rise in hate speech against Roma in Ukraine says Council of Europe Anti-racism Commission (19/09/2017)

By Council of Europe

In its new report on Ukraine published today, the Council of Europe’s Anti-racism Commission commended new legal provisions to combat discrimination, progress in investigating hate crimes, steps towards integrating Roma and solidarity towards internally displaced persons (IDPs). However, efforts must be stepped up to end racist violence against LGBT and Roma and hate speech dominating public discourse, and to improve conditions of IDPs.

Read more here.

Roma girls in Derby subjected to bullying and racism at Merrill Academy (11/10/2017)

By Derby News

Some of the highest rates of exclusions from Derby’s schools are of girls from the Roma community – yet they want to be at school, and get an education. Why is there this conflict?

An innovative 3 day workshop was held recently, run locally by experienced youth workers, funded by Derby News, with 3 young Roma girls aged between 13 and 15. The objective was to explore many themes around life skills, empowerment, their environment, what they want from the future...and how would they like to change things. The event closed with all 3 girls making presentations to a small panel, and briefly describing an idea that they would like to run with, resulting from this course.

Read more here.

Bulgarians unfazed by anti-Roma hate speech from deputy prime minister (31/10/2017)

By Deutsche Welle

Bulgaria's deputy prime minister, Valeri Simeonov, has been found guilty of hate speech against Roma — but has not been asked to step down. Prejudice against Roma is widespread in Bulgaria.
He was convicted over a speech he made in the Bulgarian parliament on December 17, 2014. The 62-year-old politician, businessman and media entrepreneur described the Roma as, among other things: "arrogant, presumptuous and ferocious humanoids, demanding wages without labor, demanding sick-leave benefits without being sick, child benefits for children that play outside with the street-pigs, and maternity benefits for women with the instincts of street bitches."

Read more here.

**Antigypsyism in public discourses and election campaigns (12/11/2017)**

The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma edited and published a collection of case studies from around Europe by various authors to report Antigypsyism in public discourses and election campaigns.

Roma and Sinti in Europe are frequently targeted by racism, hate speech, and incitement, in particular during election campaigns. Politicians and political parties not only from far-right but also from mainstream political parties often draw on resentment and prejudice against Roma and Sinti. They do so in order to win votes through populist strategies and the scapegoating of minorities.

Read more and download the publication here.

**Vice-President of the European Parliament, Livia Járóka, trivializes right-wing extremism (5/12/2017)**

In her speech during the “European Roma Platform” in Brussels on 28 November, Járóka downplayed the dangers of right-wing extremism and right-wing populism in Europe, according to Romani Rose, chairman of the Central Council.

Livia Járóka emphasized the alleged ‘positive intentions’ of right-wing extremist parties towards Roma, after she had previously been elected Vice-President by these parties.
The chairman of the Central Council, Romani Rose, addresses Vice President Járóka in a personal letter urging her not to legitimize far-right parties as a part of mainstream society. „All democratic parties must draw a red line and sanction every form of antigypsyism, anti-Semitism and racism, in order to defend the rule of law against right-wing populists and right-wing extremists,” stated Rose.

Recent studies and documentations show that antigypsyism is not only to be found on the right edge of society, but also parties and representatives of the center often contribute to antigypsyist public discourses and thus legitimize and strengthen right-wing positions.

Read more here.

Hate speech in the Hungarian election campaign (13/12/2017)

By Deutsche Welle

Repeated calls for the reinstatement of the death penalty, homophobic slogans and thinly veiled attacks on Roma, who are stigmatized as criminals who don't like to work, all belong to the rhetoric regularly used by Orban and politicians in his ruling government.

For instance, when the discussion turns to Roma and the social problems they face, the prime minister likes to say that everyone in Hungary has to work; no one can be allowed to choose crime as a model of existence.

Read more here.