



PRESS RELEASE

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

It is crucial to recognise and tackle deeply-rooted and institutionalized forms of anti-Gypsyism

Brussels, 27 January 2018

On the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we commemorate all the victims of the Holocaust perpetrated by the Nazi regime and we would like to remind how important it is to remember and take action against all persisting forms of racism and xenophobia.

Roma and Sinti are two of the groups largely subjected to persecution and inhuman treatment during World War II and which still face unjust treatment and discrimination. Anti-Gypsyism, sometimes referred as Romaphobia or anti-Tziganism, is a deeply rooted form of racism against Roma which is still difficult to tackle and fight against because of its institutionalisation. Discrimination and prejudice are still alive in judiciary systems, police corps, schools, hospitals, in other public services and in the private sector; media are constantly shaping the negative stereotypical image of Roma; far right political parties and politicians are still releasing denigratory statements without sever consequences for their actions.

“Roma Holocaust is still not sufficiently recognised neither by international institutions nor by national authorities. The historical discrimination and racism experienced by Roma has had a dramatic impact in terms of their disadvantaged and marginalised position today. The fight against anti-Gypsyism needs to not only address present situation, but also to seek to remedy the impact of past discrimination...” stated Mr. Ivan Ivanov, the Executive Director of the European Roma Information Office (ERIO).

It is crucial to recognise all of forms of anti-Roma discrimination, hate speech and hate crime as anti-Gypsyism, condemning them, making them unacceptable and working jointly for their eradication from our societies.

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Note to the editor:

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) is an international 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 - www.facebook.com/erionet.eu - www.twitter.com/ERIO_EU