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Working sessions 16 and 17 - Roma and Sinti (26 September 2019)

Contribution by the Roma and Travellers Team of the Council of Europe¹

prepared on 28 August 2019

Roma and Sinti issues

Introduction

In recent years, European and national policy frameworks for the inclusion of Roma and Travellers² have been developed. We witnessed significant developments in terms of policy design, adoption of strategies focused on Roma social inclusion and awareness-raising. There is also small progress in increasing the number of Roma children involved in primary education and in representation of Roma in political life and representation within national and international organisations. Unfortunately, the overall socio-economic situation of Roma remains problematic all over Europe and anti-Gypsyism strident. Lack of political will and capacity of local administrations to develop, implement and monitor effective policies and projects hamper the implementation of Roma integration strategies at local level, including the effective use of EU funds for that purpose. Often the lack of mutual trust also hinders co-operation between local authorities and local Roma communities.

Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019)

The Council of Europe [Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers \(2016-2019\)](#), adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 March 2016, fosters the implementation of the 2010 [Strasbourg Declaration on Roma](#) and provides the framework for the Organisation's work on Roma and Travellers, setting out the roadmap for legislation, policy and practice that ensure the protection of their rights and dignity, provide for equal opportunities and non-discrimination, and improve their living conditions. The Plan's 21 specific actions focus on the following three priorities: fight against discrimination and anti-Gypsyism; protection of the most vulnerable, such as children, youth and women; and promotion of innovative solutions at local level. It also contains some accompanying measures, such as the monitoring and intergovernmental cooperation and the dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society. The [First](#)

¹ For further information, see Council of Europe Roma portal : <https://www.coe.int/en/web/roma-and-travellers>

² The terms "Roma" and "Travellers" are used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "*Gens du voyage*", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

[Progress report](#) on the implementation of the Thematic Action Plan was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 June 2017; a [Second Progress report](#) covering the period April 2017-April 2018 was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2018. The third progress report is currently being prepared.

Priority area 1: Tackling anti-Roma and anti-Traveller prejudice, discrimination and crimes (“anti-Gypsyism”)

Specific objective 1.1 Strengthening the competence to fight against anti-Gypsyism

European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIANC)

The [European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture \(ERIANC\)](#), which aims, *inter alia*, to promote arts and culture as a means to promote human rights and intercultural understanding and thereby to tackle anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma in Europe and to increase their self-esteem, established in 2017 by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Open Society Foundations (OSF) and the Alliance for ERIAC, is now fully operational. On 17 April 2018, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Dunja Mijatović, visited the ERIAC premises in Berlin. On 22 June 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding on the co-operation between the Council of Europe and ERIAC was signed. To date, two international outreach programmes have been organised covering a total of 14 Council of Europe member states. A 2018 independent external evaluation of ERIAC operations was positive.

In May 2019, the “Futuroma exhibition was presented at *la Biennale di Venezia*.

Another independent external evaluation of ERIAC operations and activities is currently being conducted.

Roma history teaching, including Roma Holocaust

Co-operation is on-going with OSCE/ODIHR on a [database](#) containing a virtual library of the best-known and most useful publications and an interactive map where member states can indicate their special/distinctive features at national level. Council of Europe’s pedagogical factsheets on Roma history, culture and language were revised in 2018 and made available online. New factsheets are being prepared in cooperation with Graz University and should be published by the end of 2019. The Roma and Travellers Team, the Roma Education Fund (REF) and the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI) contributed to a research project analysing the representation of Roma in European school curricula and textbooks at secondary education level. The report on the curricula was finalised in 2017, whilst the report on the text books, including recommendations to educational policy-makers on how to improve the representation of Roma, will be available in the second half of 2019. The Roma and Travellers Team also contributed to a project lead by the French *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS)* aiming at collecting audiovisual testimonies. A draft Committee of Ministers’ recommendation on the inclusion of the teaching of Roma history, including the Roma Holocaust, in textbooks and school curricula is currently being prepared by the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM). Close co-operation with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) was pursued and the European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day (2 August 2019 – 75th anniversary) was commemorated at the conference in Krakow and at the ceremony in the Auschwitz-Birkenau camps as well as at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg.

DOSTA! Campaign

Every year around 8 April, activities are organised in Strasbourg to celebrate the International Roma Day. In 2018, Dosta! Campaign supported the organisation of a living library.

On 8 April 2019, two animated child-friendly DOSTA! campaign video clips for children aged between 6 and 14 were launched in French and English. The concept for the child-friendly Dosta! toolkit was prepared in 2017 and validated following the consultation of 70 children from

Albania, Hungary and Spain on how to raise awareness about racism and prejudice towards Roma.

A Dosta!-supported workshop and an exhibition were organised in Kumanovo (North Macedonia) during the Roma Pride events held in October and November 2018.

Specific Objective 1.2 Improving the access of Roma and Travellers to justice

Improving access to justice for Roma and Travellers in Europe

Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)10 on improving access to justice for Roma and Travellers in Europe was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 October 2017. A CAHROM thematic visit on Roma and Travellers' access to justice was held in Helsinki (Finland) in March 2018.

The European Commission/Council of Europe joint programme "Roma and Traveller Women's Access to Justice (JUSTROM)", the first phase of which ran from October 2016 to March 2018, was extended until March 2019. During that period, two legal clinics in each of the four pilot countries have been operational. JUSTROM2 provided information, on human rights to approximately 2,000 Roma and Traveller women. The support provided was specialised, addressed legal or administrative proceedings, and covered issues such as family law, social security benefits, and payment of taxes. A total of 552 legal professionals were trained in ECHR standards with a focus on gender equality and Roma issues. JUSTROM3 is currently being signed.

Operational Platform for Roma Equality (OPRE)³

In May 2018, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in Belfast (United Kingdom), hosted the 5th meeting of the OPRE platform. This was the first time that an OPRE meeting was jointly organised with the Platform on Social and Economic Rights ("4SocialRights" platform) and addressed the issues of accommodation for Travellers and Roma housing rights.

The 6th meeting of the OPRE platform was organised on 14-15 May 2019 in Bratislava at the initiative of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights and focused on the protection of the rights of Roma and Traveller children to quality inclusive education and to a life free of discrimination.

Specific Objective 1.3 Developing the skills and knowledge of legal professionals and administrators

In 2018, emphasis was put on both the training of legal and law enforcement professionals and the provision of adequate training materials. Training-of-trainers sessions on non-discrimination were organised: for 20 police officers in Romania (June 2018); for 16 Bulgarian police officers (November 2018); for 40 police officers in Greece, in Athens and Thessaloniki (February 2019) in co-operation with the anti-discrimination unit of the Hellenic police. In addition, a training of trainers (ToT) for the judiciary was organised on 26-28 September 2018 in Strasbourg for 13 judges from Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Romania, 7 of whom received their certification as tutors for the HELP platform.

Priority area 2: Demonstrating innovative models for inclusive policies for the most vulnerable

³ OPRE members are the Council of Europe, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the European Network of European National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), and the European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet). OPRE associated partners include the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR).

Under this priority area, specific emphasis was put on the support and empowerment of Roma and Traveller women, children and young people.

Specific objective 2.1 Strengthening the self-organisation of young Roma and Travellers and their participation in society

Roma Youth Action Plan

The Roma Youth Action Plan (RYAP) is the Council of Europe's response to the challenges faced by young Roma people in Europe, particularly in relation to their empowerment and participation in policy and decision-making processes and structures at European level, as well as the realities of discrimination and particularly the anti-Gypsyism with which they are confronted. The project aims to improve the participation of young Roma in youth and Roma-related policies from European to local level, by initiating programmes and projects to combat discrimination and enable the involvement of young Roma people in all matters that concern them. An Informal Contact Group meets at least once a year to develop a strategy based on the Action Plan's activities and other existing programmes and initiatives. The Focal Point on Roma and Sinti of the OSCE/ODIHR is invited to take part in the Contact Group's work. The RYAP work programme included regional and national activities to support the self-organisation and participation of young people, such as:

- A meeting of representatives of European Roma youth networks and organisations advocating and supporting the participation of young Roma people, held at the European Youth Centre in Budapest (Hungary) in February 2018;
- The event "Roma youth in the European Policy Agenda Post 2020" organised by the Youth Department during the EU Roma Week in Brussels in April 2018 which brought together relevant Roma and youth stakeholders, MEPs, and representatives of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, to discuss participatory policy making and Roma youth participation in possible post-2020 instruments and mechanisms;
- The commemoration of the Roma Genocide in partnership with TernYpe International Roma Youth Network (30 July – 3 August 2018 and 31 July- 2 August 2019));
- A Seminar on the role of Roma youth in policy and decision-making bodies and coordination structures in Strasbourg (19-20 November 2018) with 29 participants from civil society, central and local governments;
- A workshop on Developing responses of young people to anti-Gypsyism and hate speech in Rome, Italy (27-30 November 2018) with 29 Roma and youth human rights activists;
- A training workshop in non-formal education and youth work with young Roma people in Zagreb, Croatia (22-25 November 2018) with 20 Roma participants.

Specific objective 2.2 Better protecting the rights of Roma and Travellers children

Inclusive schools

The European Commission/Council of Europe joint project "Inclusive Schools: Making a Difference for Roma Children (INSCHOOL)" was implemented between May 2017 and July 2019, with the aim of enhancing the social inclusion of Roma children by promoting inclusive education policies and practices in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, the Slovak Republic

and the United Kingdom. Instead of focusing on the child as the problem, INSCHOOL puts at the heart of its action the education system and its capacity to respond to the needs of Roma children, to celebrate differences and to support their learning experience. The main activities under this project focus on two levels. The first level consists of working with schools to increase the understanding for the benefits of inclusive education, provide expertise and financial assistance for inclusive activities and help to address any issues. The second level constitutes the cooperation with Ministries in charge of education to demonstrate successful inclusive practices as well as discuss the ways of mitigating the obstacles on the way to quality inclusive education on a policy level. During the implementation period, 8 Educational Advisors and 14 facilitators carried out over 600 of interventions in 24 project schools. On policy level, 2 national working groups were established (Slovak Republic and Hungary). Phase two of the INSCHOOL project is expected to start in September 2019.

Specific objective 2.3 Empowering Roma and Traveller women and promoting gender equality

Roma women's political representation and participation in politics

The 7th International Roma Women Conference took place in Espoo, Finland, on 25-27 March 2019 under the Finnish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and focused on "Roma and Traveller Women's Access to Justice and Rights including Taking Stock of the Implementation of the Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019) and Pointing the Way Forward for the Post-2019 Strategic Document on Roma and Traveller Inclusion". The conference was opened by Ms Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland, and attended by 130 participants from 30 CoE member States (including 90 Roma and Traveller women and men).

Roma Political Schools and political participation and representation of Roma women and youth

In order to improve the political participation of Roma, "political Schools/academies" provide training to Roma citizens with a potential of standing for election at local level, in order to bring Roma closer to local decision-making and promote their active participation in local administration, The political school/academy was initiated in Portugal and Turkey in 2017 and continued in 2018 in Italy. In the first half of 2019, thematic training sessions on topical issues involving local authorities and Roma communities were organised in Bulgaria.

Roma Political Schools are currently being expanded. Grantees to implement training sessions in Greece, Italy, Portugal, Turkey and Ukraine have been identified, implementation is foreseen during the period September to December 2019.

In this context, it is worth noting that the Council of Europe has also funded the participation of several Roma youth groups from the target countries of the Roma Political Schools, as well as from France, to participate in the 75th anniversary commemorations of the 2 August in Krakow and the Auschwitz-Birkenau camps.

Access to justice for Roma and Traveller women

The European Commission/Council of Europe joint programme "Roma and Traveller women's access to justice (JUSTROM)" provided legal aid through the setting up of legal clinics involving lawyers, paralegals and community mediators in Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Italy, and Romania.

Priority area 3: Promoting innovative models for local-level solutions

Specific objectives 3.1 Supporting the participation of Roma and Travellers in local decision-making and 3.2 Strengthening the capacity of local and regional authorities to develop and implement plans, strategies and services for the inclusion of Roma and Travellers

European Commission/Council of Europe joint programmes ROMACT and ROMACTED

Effective participation, empowerment, and capacity building are at the core of ROMACT and ROMACTED programmes, jointly implemented by the Council of Europe and the European Commission. The programmes provide local and regional authorities with assistance to enhance democratic participation and empowerment of local Roma communities and stimulate an increased responsiveness of local public institutions towards those communities. They also aim to provide additional technical assistance in project design, implementation and accessing EU and national funds. Both programmes are piloted at local level and affect directly not only the national policies, strategies and action plans, but also the actors targeted: local administrations and Roma citizens. Both programmes are based on bottom-up and top-down approaches and dialogue between different political and civic society layers.

ROMACT: the processes launched by the joint programme ROMED are enhanced by the ROMACT joint programme, which assists local authorities to develop policies and public services that are inclusive of all, including Roma. The programme is currently being implemented in about 30 municipalities in Bulgaria and Romania. It also comprises of a component which aims to assist local authorities to better integrate marginalised people, particularly their non-national Roma communities.

ROMACTED: this regional joint programme is currently being implemented in municipalities in the Western Balkans and Turkey and aims at assisting local authorities in integrating Roma-specific dimensions and measures into mainstream local policies, budgets and public service delivery, while enhancing the participation of Roma citizens in the design, implementation and monitoring of those policies and projects.

Both joint programmes involve European, national and local stakeholders and are largely being implemented by experts of Roma origin. Thereby, they translate into practice the commitments taken by member states at EU level. They are implemented on the ground and are directly benefitting local administrations and Roma citizens. ROMACT and ROMACTED are programmes where bottom-up and top-down approaches meet through dialogue between various stakeholders.

European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion

The European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion was set up in 2013 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe with the support of Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Roma Issues. It provides for its 130 members from 29 countries a platform for debating and advocating Roma inclusion at local and regional level. A “Declaration of Mayors and Elected Local and Regional Representatives of Council of Europe Member States against anti-Gypsyism” was put forward in March 2017 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Roma and Travellers Team. The Declaration helps local and regional authorities to position themselves explicitly against anti-Gypsyism and to deepen their efforts concerning Roma Inclusion. Translated into 23 languages, the Declaration has to date been signed by 122 signatories from 34 member states.

In 2017, it was decided to set up or revive national networks under the informal umbrella of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers. The first such National Alliance was set up in Ukraine in 2017, followed by networks in Greece (2018) and Albania (2018). During its second official meeting in February 2019, the Ukrainian Alliance was extended to now count 12 members.

Accompanying measures of the Thematic Action Plan

Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM)

The Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) has been tasked by the Committee of Ministers to study, analyse and evaluate the implementation of policies and to identify good practices of member States concerning Roma and Travellers, with a view to promoting the implementation of relevant Council of Europe standards. To that end, CAHROM maintains a European database on policies/good practices for the integration of Roma and Travellers and has set up small thematic groups (peer groups) which keep under review the situation of Roma and Travellers in member states, according to the certain pre-defined themes, and through thematic visits. CAHROM thematic peer reviews covered Roma and Traveller's access to justice (with a focus on Roma and Traveller women) hosted by Finland in March 2018; Roma children's compulsory school education and added value of ensuring access to vocational education for Roma youth hosted by the Republic of Moldova in April 2018; and Roma access to employment (with a focus on Roma women and youth) hosted by the Netherlands in June 2018; Roma integration, policy development and coordination practices in countries with a small Roma population hosted by Latvia in October 2018; lack of identity documents and statelessness issues in Albania in November 2018; governmental support for the promotion of Romani arts and culture and Holocaust remembrance in Germany in February 2019; geographical mapping of Roma communities and their concrete impact in policy developments in Croatia in May 2019 and Roma self-reliability and responsibility to participate in society in Ukraine in June 2019.

Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller Organisations

The dialogue between the Council of Europe and representatives of Roma and Traveller civil society was initiated by the Committee of Ministers at the end of 2015. To date, 7 meetings have been held, in which a total of more than 210 participants debated issues such as poverty, internal and cross-border migration of Roma, combating hate speech against Roma and Travellers, housing and (forced) evictions, the situation of Roma youth and of Travellers in Europe, transition from education to employment (4th Dialogue, Strasbourg, 18-19 September 2017), political participation (20-21 June 2018), Joint assessment of the Council of Europe Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019) (15-16 October 2018), and housing rights and prevention of forced evacuation (11-12 April 2019).

Recruitment of Roma professionals to the Council of Europe Secretariat

The Thematic Action Plan also provides for the recruitment of Roma professionals to the Council of Europe Secretariat. There are currently 14 staff members of Roma ethnic origin employed on different types of contract and in different locations (Strasbourg headquarters, both European Youth Centres, and field offices). Their employment contracts are often linked to the implementation of Council of Europe/European Commission Joint Programmes. Moreover, co-operation started in 2017 between the Council of Europe Secretariat and the Central European University (CEU), with a view to offering traineeship places to CEU graduates of Roma origin. To date, four CEU Roma trainees have joined the Secretariat, two have worked in the Secretariat of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), one in the Youth Department and one in the Roma and Travellers Team.

The European Social Charter and Roma Rights

The **European Social Charter** lays down fundamental rights (related to housing, health, education, employment, social and legal protection and non-discrimination), which States Parties have undertaken to secure to nationals of the States Parties (43 out of the 47 member states). In addition, no one (i.e. including nationals of non-Council of Europe member states, persons in an irregular situation, undocumented persons and thus also Roma and Travelers falling within these categories) may be deprived of the rights under the Charter which are linked to life and dignity (e.g. urgent medical assistance should be granted to everyone; no one may be evicted, not even from an illegally occupied site, without respecting the dignity of the persons concerned and without alternative accommodation being made available; everyone has a right to shelter; everyone has a right to procedural safeguards in the event of expulsion, etc.).

The European Committee of Social Rights (“The Committee”) rules on the conformity of national law and practice with the Charter. The monitoring is carried out through two procedures:

- on the basis of regular reports submitted every year by States Party, the Committee adopts conclusions.
- on the basis of collective complaints that may be lodged by a series of actors against states having accepted the procedure, the Committee adopts decisions on the merits.

Within this context, in particular of the latter procedure (see section II), the Committee has been directly called upon to assess the situation of Roma and Travelers. To date, it has found violations of the rights of Roma and Travelers under **Articles 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 30 and 31, as well as Article E** taken in conjunction with these Articles of the Charter (see section I below).

I. Overview of the violations of the rights of Roma and Travelers found under the European Social Charter

Article 10 – The right to vocational training

Part I: “Everyone has the right to appropriate facilities for vocational training.”

Part II: “With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to vocational training, the Parties undertake:

[...]

3. to provide or promote, as necessary:

a) adequate and readily available training facilities for adult workers;

[...]

5 to encourage the full utilisation of the facilities provided by appropriate measures such as:

[...]

b) granting financial assistance in appropriate cases;”

[...]

Violations of this right have been found on the grounds of discrimination against Roma in access to schooling, to vocational training and to support in access to employment or employment policy measures.

Article 11 – The right to protection of health

Part I: Everyone has the right to benefit from any measures enabling him to enjoy the highest possible standard of health attainable.

Part II: With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to protection of health, the Parties undertake, either directly or in co-operation with public or private organisations, to take appropriate measures designed inter alia:

1. To remove as far as possible the causes of ill-health;
2. To provide advisory and educational facilities for the promotion of health and the encouragement of individual responsibility in matters of health;
3. To prevent as far as possible epidemic, endemic and other diseases, as well as accidents.

Violations of this right have been found on the grounds of failure of the authorities to take appropriate measures to address the exclusion, marginalization and environmental hazards which Romani communities are exposed to, as well as the problems encountered by many Roma in accessing health care services, including adequate maternity health care.

Article 13 – The right to social and medical assistance

Part I: Anyone without adequate resources has the right to social and medical assistance.

Part II: With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to social and medical assistance, the Parties undertake:

1. to ensure that any person who is without adequate resources and who is unable to secure such resources either by his own efforts or from other sources, in particular by benefits under a social security scheme, be granted adequate assistance, and, in case of sickness, the care necessitated by his condition;

[...]

4. to apply the provisions referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this article on an equal footing with their nationals to nationals of other Parties lawfully within their territories, in accordance with their obligations under the European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance, signed at Paris on 11 December 1953.”

Violations of this right have been found on the ground of lack of medical assistance for migrant Roma lawfully resident or working regularly in a member State .

Article 16 – The right of the family to social, legal, and economic protection

Part I: The family as a fundamental unit of society has the right to appropriate social, legal and economic protection to ensure its full development.

Part II: With a view to ensuring the necessary conditions for the full development of the family, which is a fundamental unit of society, the Parties undertake to promote the

economic, legal and social protection of family life by such means as social and family benefits, fiscal arrangements, provision of family housing, benefits for the newly married and other appropriate means.

Violations of this right have been found on the grounds of:

- insufficient legal protection of Roma and Travelers' families due to the fact that their legal status is not ensured (lack of identity documents and/or birth certificates);
- discriminatory access in practice to social services, family benefits and housing;
- undue interference in the private and family life of Roma and Sinti, on account of procedures of identification and census of Roma and Sinti which were not accompanied by the due safeguards for privacy and against abuses;
- evictions carried out without the necessary safeguards;
- unjustified termination and disproportionate suspension of family allowances applied respectively when a minor becomes a parent and when (s)he stops attending school, disproportionately affecting Roma, and particularly Roma female minors

Article 17 – The right of children and young persons to social, legal and economic protection

Part I: Children and young persons have the right to appropriate social, legal and economic protection.

Part II: With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of children and young persons to grow up in an environment which encourages the full development of their personality and of their physical and mental capacities, the Parties undertake, either directly or in co-operation with public and private organizations, to take all appropriate and necessary measures designed:

[...]

2. to provide children and young persons a free primary and secondary education as well as to encourage regular attendance at schools.

Violations of this right have been found on the ground that while educational policies for Roma children may be accompanied by flexible structures to meet the diversity of the group and may take into account the fact that some groups live an itinerant or semi-itinerant life style, there should be no separate schools for Roma and access to school should be guaranteed.

Article 19 – The right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance

Part I: Migrant workers who are nationals of a Party and their families have the right to protection and assistance in the territory of any other Party.

Part II: With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance in the territory of any other Party, the Parties undertake:

1. [...] to take all appropriate steps, so far as national laws and regulations permit, against misleading propaganda relating to emigration and immigration;

[...]

4. to secure for such workers lawfully within their territories, insofar as such matters are regulated by law or regulations or are subject to the control of

administrative authorities, treatment not less favourable than that of their own nationals in respect of the following matters: [...]

c) accommodation;

[...]

8. to secure that such workers lawfully residing within their territories are not expelled unless they endanger national security or offend against public interest or morality;

[...]

Violations of this Article have been found on the grounds of

- racist and/or misleading propaganda allowed by or emanating from public authorities,
- segregation and poor living conditions in camps and stopping places,
- *de facto* collective expulsions of Roma and Travelers migrants.

In the case of evictions and of racist propaganda, the fact that public authorities not only did not take appropriate action against the perpetrators of the violations found but also contributed to such violence, and the circumstance that the violations found were specifically targeting and affecting vulnerable groups amounts, according to the European Committee on Social Rights, to an “aggravated” violation.

Article 30 – The right to protection against poverty and social exclusion

Part I: Everyone has the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion.

Part II: With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion, the Parties undertake:

a) to take measures within the framework of an overall and coordinated approach to promote the effective access of persons who live or risk living in a situation of social exclusion or poverty, as well as their families, to, in particular, employment, housing, training, education, culture and social and medical assistance;

b) to review these measures with a view to their adaptation if necessary.

Violations of this Article have been found on the grounds of

- failure to adopt a coordinated approach to promoting effective access to housing for persons who live or risk living in a situation of social exclusion,
- segregation, poverty and marginalization affecting most Roma and Sinti living in camps or similar settlements;
- discrimination in access to voting rights, resulting in social exclusion.

Article 31 – The right to housing

Part I: Everyone has the right to housing.

Part II: With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to housing, the Parties undertake to take measures designed:

1. to promote access to housing of an adequate standard;

2. to prevent and reduce homelessness with a view to its gradual elimination;

3. to make the price of housing accessible to those without adequate resources.

Violations of this right have been found, *inter alia*, on the grounds of:

- poor living conditions of Roma and Travelers in camps or stopping places,

- the failure to create a sufficient number of stopping places for Travelers,
- the carrying out of evictions without respecting the dignity of the persons concerned and without alternative accommodation being made available,
- the lack of legal remedies and/or legal aid to those who need it to seek redress from the courts following evictions
- the lack of adequate supply of affordable housing for persons with limited resources.

Article E – Non-discrimination

The enjoyment of the rights set forth in this Charter shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national extraction or social origin, health, association with a national minority, birth or other status.

As Article 14 of the ECHR, the function of Article E is to help secure the equal effective enjoyment of all the rights concerned regardless of difference.

As regards Roma, Sinti and/or Travellers, most of the violations found with regard to the rights mentioned above were also held to constitute racial discrimination or discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin.

II. Overview of the Collective Complaints concerning Roma and Travelers

Out of the 184 complaints registered to date, 21 concern the situation of Roma and Travellers directly. In its latest relevant decision, adopted on 4/07/2019, the Committee asked the respondent State (Italy) to adopt immediate measures (see Appendix).

More detailed information on the collective complaints procedure can be obtained by using the following link: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/turin-european-social-charter/collective-complaints-procedure>

More general information on the European Social Charter can be obtained by using the following link: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/turin-european-social-charter>

For further information, please contact:

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APPENDIX

A. Conclusions finding situations of non-conformity specifically relating to Roma, Sinti, Travelers (reporting cycles 2009-2018)

Situations of non-conformity by State (relevant year and Article):

BIH: 2011(16)
BGR: 2011(16); 2009 (11§1)
CZE: 2015(16)
FRA: 2013(11§1, 11§2, 11§3, 30); 2011 (19§4, 19§8)
GRC: 2011(16)
HUN: 2015 (16, 17§2); 2011 (16, 17§2)
ITA: 2013 (30); 2011 (16, 17§2, 19§1, 19§4, 19§8, 31§1, 31§2, 31§3)
LIT: 2015(31§1); 2011 (31§1)
MDA: 2015(17§2)
PRT: 2013(30); 2011 (31§1)
ROM: 2015 (16); 2011 (16)
SLK: 2015 (16, 17§2); 2011 (16, 17§2)
SVN: 2017(31§2); 2015 (31§1, 31§2); 2011 (16, 31§1)
TUR: 2011(31§1, 31§2)
UKR: 2017(31§1); 2015 (31§1); 2011 (31§1)
UK: 2015(16)

Situations of non-conformity by theme:

Right to health:

1. (2013 – 11§1 – FRA) migrant Roma do not enjoy an adequate access to health care.
2. (2013 – 11§2 – FRA) opportunities for pregnant Roma women and children to have access to free and regular consultations and screening are insufficient.
3. (2013 – 11§3 – FRA) lack of prevention of diseases and accidents in the Roma community.
4. (2009 – 11§1 – BGR) the authorities have failed to take appropriate measures to address the health problems faced by Roma communities stemming from their often unhealthy living conditions and difficult access to health services; the medical services available for poor or socially vulnerable persons who have lost entitlement to social assistance are not sufficient.

Right to education:

5. (2015 – 17§2 - HUN) Roma children are subject to segregation in the educational field;
6. (2015 – 17§2 – MDA) measures taken to ensure that Roma children complete compulsory education are not sufficient;
7. (2015 – 17§2 - SLK) Roma children are disproportionately represented in special classes;

8. (2011 – 17§2 – HUN) Roma children are subject to segregation in the educational field;
9. (2011 – 17§2 – ITA) it has not been established that measures taken to improve access for Roma children to education are sufficient;
10. (2011 – 17§2 – SLK) Roma children are disproportionately represented in special classes;

Right to family protection (including family housing):

11. (2015(XX-4) – 16 – CZE) housing conditions of Roma families are not adequate;
12. (2015 – 16 – HUN) Roma families do not have access to adequate housing;
13. (2015 – 16 – ROU) the right to adequate housing is not guaranteed for Roma families;
14. (2015 – 16 – SLK) the right to housing of Roma families is not effectively guaranteed;
15. (2015(XX-4) – 16 – UK) in England, the right of Roma/Traveller families to housing is not effectively guaranteed;
16. (2011 – 16 – BIH) it has not been established that the living conditions of Roma families and other vulnerable families in housing are adequate;
17. (2011 – 16 – BGR) it has not been established that Roma families are guaranteed equal access to family benefits; it has not been established that Roma families receive adequate protection with regard to housing;
18. (2011(XIX-4) – 16 – GRC) housing conditions of Roma families are not adequate; Roma families still not have sufficient legal protection;
19. (2011 – 16 – HUN) Roma families do not have access to adequate housing.
20. (2011 – 16 – ITA) undue interference in the family life of Roma and Sinti families (this ground of non-conformity led to the finding of a violation in COHRE v. Italy);
21. (2011 – 16 – ROU) the living conditions of Roma families in housing are not adequate.
22. (2011 – 16 – SLK) the right to housing of Roma families is not effectively guaranteed;
23. (2011 – 16 – SLV) it has not been established that Roma families have sufficient legal protection;

Right to Housing (in general):

24. (2017 – 31§1 - UKR) it has not been established that measures are taken by public authorities to improve the substandard housing conditions of Roma;
25. (2017 – 31§2 – SLV) it has not been established that sufficient procedures have been put into place ensuring that evictions of Roma are carried out in conditions respecting the dignity of the persons concerned;
26. (2015 – 31§1 - LIT) measures taken by public authorities to improve the substandard housing conditions of most Roma are insufficient;
27. (2015 – 31§1 – SLV) measures taken by public authorities to improve the substandard housing conditions of a considerable number of Roma are not sufficient;
28. (2015 – 31§1 – UKR) it has not been established that measures are taken by public authorities to improve the substandard housing conditions of Roma;

29. (2015 – 31§2 – SLV) it has not been established that sufficient procedures have been put into place ensuring that evictions of Roma are carried out in conditions respecting the dignity of the persons concerned;
30. (2011 – 31§1 – ITA) measures taken by public authorities to improve the substandard housing conditions of most Roma in Italy are inadequate (this ground of non-conformity led to the finding of a violation in ERRC v. Italy. The Committee holds that during the reference period the follow-up to this finding was unsatisfactory. This ground of non-conformity also led to the finding of a violation in COHRE v. Italy);
31. (2011 – 31§1 – LIT) insufficient measures were taken by public authorities to improve the substandard housing conditions of most Roma in Lithuania;
32. (2011 – 31§1 – PRT) the measures taken by public authorities to improve the substandard housing conditions of most Roma are inadequate;
33. (2011 – 31§1 – SLV) insufficient measures were taken by public authorities to improve the substandard housing conditions of a considerable number of Roma in Slovenia;
34. (2011 – 31§1 – TUR) measures taken by public authorities to improve the substandard housing conditions of most Roma in Turkey are inadequate;(...)
35. (2011 – 31§1 – UKR) insufficient measures were taken by public authorities to improve the substandard housing conditions of many Roma and Crimean Tatars;
36. (2011 - 31§2 – ITA) evictions of Roma and Sinti continue to be carried out without respecting the necessary procedural safeguards to guarantee full respect of every individual's human dignity and without alternative accommodation being made available (this ground of non-conformity led to the finding of a violation in ERRC v. Italy. The Committee holds that during the reference period the follow-up to this finding was unsatisfactory; this ground also led to the finding of a violation in COHRE v. Italy); intervention in Roma and Sinti settlements by the police, has not been respectful of the dignity of their inhabitants and those responsible for destroying the personal belongings of the inhabitants of the settlements have not always been investigated nor have they, if identified, been condemned for their acts (this ground of non-conformity led to a finding of violation in COHRE v. Italy);
37. (2011 – 31§2 – TUR) evictions of Roma have occurred without respecting the necessary procedural safeguards to guarantee full respect of every individual's human dignity;
38. (2011 – 31§3 – ITA) it has not been demonstrated that resources have been invested with the effect of improving in practice access of Roma and Sinti to social housing without discrimination (this ground of non-conformity led to the finding of violation in ERRC v. Italy. The Committee holds that during the reference period the follow-up to this finding was unsatisfactory. This ground of non-conformity also led to the finding of violation in COHRE v. Italy).

Right to protection of migrant workers

39. (2011 – 19§1 – ITA) racist misleading propaganda against migrant Roma and Sinti indirectly allowed or directly emanating from public authorities (This ground of non-conformity led to the finding of a violation in COHRE v. Italy);
40. (2011 – 19§4 – FRA) the housing conditions of Roma migrant workers in a legal situation are not adequate;

41. (2011 – 19§4 – ITA) the forced evictions of Roma migrant workers were carried out without due respect of the necessary procedural safeguards guaranteeing that in respect of housing for such workers treatment is not less favourable than that of nationals (this ground of non-conformity led to the finding of a violation in COHRE v. Italy);
42. (2011 – 19§8 – FRA) during the reference period Roma were expelled for reasons not permitted by the Charter;
43. (2011 – 19§8 – ITA) during the reference period "security measures" representing a discriminatory legal framework target Roma and Sinti, making it very difficult for them to obtain identification documents in order to legalise their residence status and, therefore, permit even the expulsion of Italian and other EU citizens.

Right to protection against poverty and social exclusion

44. (2013 – 30 – FRA): follow-up of decisions on the merits of Collective Complaints No. 33/2006 and 51/2008 remains unsatisfactory; there was discrimination of migrant Roma in respect of housing policy during the reference period (Collective Complaint No. 67/2011).
45. (2013 – 30 – ITA) there is discriminatory treatment of migrant Roma and Sinti with regard to citizen's participation
46. (2013 – 30 – PRT) lack of a co-ordinated policy in housing matters with regard to Roma (Collective Complaint No. 61/2010).

B. Complaints finding violations of social rights of Roma, Sinti, Travelers

Belgium

1. **International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) v. Belgium, Collective Complaint No. 62/2010**, decision on the merits of **21/03/2010**: failure in the Walloon Region to recognise caravans as dwellings and existence, in the Flemish and Brussels Regions, of housing quality standards relating to health, safety and living conditions that are not adapted to caravans and the sites on which they are installed (violation of Article 16 + E RESC); lack of sites for Travelers and the state's inadequate efforts to rectify the problem (violation of Article 16 + E RESC); failure to take sufficient account of the specific circumstances of Traveler families when drawing up and implementing planning legislation (violation of Article 16 + E RESC); situation of Traveler families with regard to their eviction from sites on which they have settled illegally (violation of Article 16 + E RESC); lack of a coordinated overall policy, in particular in housing matters, with regards to Travelers in order to prevent and combat poverty and social exclusion (violation of Article 30 + E RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2015**: Not in conformity.

Bulgaria

2. **European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. Bulgaria, Collective Complaint No. 31/2005**, decision on the merits of **18/10/2006**: inadequate housing of Roma families and lack of proper amenities (violation of Article 16 + E RESC); lack of legal security of tenure and the non-respect of the conditions accompanying eviction of Roma families from dwellings unlawfully occupied by them (violation of Article 16 + E RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018**: Not in conformity.
3. **European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. Bulgaria, Collective Complaint No. 46/2007**, decision on the merits of **3/12/2008**: failure of the authorities to take appropriate measures to address the exclusion, marginalization and environmental hazards which Roma communities were exposed to in Bulgaria, as well as the problems encountered by many Roma in accessing health care services (violation of Article 11§§ 1, 2 and 3 + E) (...). **Follow-up assessment 2018**: Not in conformity.
4. **Equal Rights Trust (ERT) v. Bulgaria, Collective Complaint No. 121/2016**, decision on the merits of **16/10/2018**: disproportionate restriction to family rights on account of the suspension or termination of the family allowances when the child stops attending school (violation of Article 16 RESC), unjustified restriction of the same rights on account of the termination of the family allowances when the minor becomes a parent (violation of Article 16 RESC) discrimination against Roma, and particularly Roma female minors, on account of the disproportionate impact on them of the abovementioned restrictions Article 16 + E RESC).
5. **European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. Bulgaria, Collective Complaint No. 151/2017**, decision on the merits of **5/12/2018**: indirect discrimination of Roma women as regards their access to adequate health care in respect of maternity (violation of Article 11§1 + E RESC).

Czech Republic

- 6. European Roma and Travelers Forum (ERTF) v. Czech Republic, Collective Complaint No. 104/2014**, decision on the merits of **17/05/2016**: insufficient access to housing, poor housing conditions and territorial segregation (violation of Article 16 ESC); forced evictions (violation of Article 16 ESC); exclusion in the field of health and inadequate access to health care services (violation of Article 11 ESC).

France

- 7. International Movement ATD Fourth World v. France, Collective Complaint No. 33/2006**, decision on the merits of **5/12/2007**: deficient implementation of legislation on stopping places for Travelers (violation of Article 31§3 + E RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018**: Not in conformity.
- 8. European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) v. France, Collective Complaint No. 39/2006**, decision on the merits of **5/12/2007**: (...) deficient implementation of legislation on stopping places for Travelers (violation of Article 31§3 + E RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018**: Not in conformity.
- 9. European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. France, Collective Complaint No. 51/2008**, decision on the merits of **19/10/2009**: inadequate implementation of the legislation on stopping places for Travellers, poor living conditions and operational failures at stopping places, lack of access to housing for settled Travellers (violation of Article 31§1 RESC); unjustified violence in eviction procedures and other penalties (violation of Article 31§2 RESC); discrimination of Travelers in access to housing (violation of Article 31+ E RESC); lack of family housing for Travelers (violation of Article 16 and 16 + E RESC); inadequate housing policy for Travelers, failure to adopt a co-ordinated approach to promoting effective access to housing for persons who live or risk living in a situation of social exclusion (violation of Article 30 RESC); discrimination of Travelers in access to voting rights and in terms of social exclusion (violation of Article 30 + E RESC); less favourable treatment of Romani migrants in access to housing (violation of Article 19§4c RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018**: Not in conformity.
- 10. Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) v. France, Collective Complaint No. 63/2010**, decision on the merits of **28/06/2011**: the conditions in which the forced evictions of Roma camps had taken place in the summer of 2010 were incompatible with human dignity (aggravated violation of Article 31§2 + E RESC); Roma of Romanian and Bulgarian origin consented to repatriation to their countries of origin in the summer of 2010 under constraint and against a background of racial discrimination (violation of Article 19§8 + E RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018**: Not fully in conformity.
- 11. European Roma and Travelers Forum (ERTF) v. France, Collective Complaint No. 64/2011**, decision on the merits of **24/01/2012**: the administrative decisions whereby, after the summer of 2010, Roma of Romanian and Bulgarian

origin had been ordered to leave French territory, where they had been resident, had not been founded on an examination of their personal circumstances, had not respected the proportionality principle and had been discriminatory in nature since they had targeted the Roma community (violation of Article 19§8 + E RESC); situation of Travelers with regard to the right to vote (violation of Article 30 + E RESC); deficient implementation of the legislation on stopping places for Travelers and Roma of Romanian and Bulgarian origin (violation of Article 31§1 + E RESC); with regard to Travelers, the execution of the forced eviction procedure governed by Articles 9 and 9-I of the Law of 5 July 2000 was inadequate and, as to Roma of Romanian and Bulgarian origin, the conditions in which forced evictions of Roma camps took place were inconsistent with human dignity (violation of Article 31§2 + E RESC); no effective access to social housing for Travelers and Roma wishing to live in mobile homes (violation of Article 31§3 + E RESC); see grounds related to Article 31 +E with regard to Travellers and Roma of Romanian and Bulgarian origin (violation of Article 16 + E RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018:** Not fully in conformity.

12. Médecins du Monde - International v. France, Collective Complaint No. 67/2011, decision on the merits of **11/09/2012**: too limited access to housing of an adequate standard and degrading housing conditions for migrant Roma lawfully resident or working regularly in France (violation of Article 31§1 + E RESC); eviction procedure of migrant Roma from the sites where they are installed (violation of Article 31§2 + E RESC); lack of sufficient measures to provide emergency accommodation and reduce homelessness of migrant Roma (violation of Article 31§2 + E RESC); lack of sufficient measures to provide housing to families of migrant Roma residing lawfully or working regularly in France (violation of Article 16 + E RESC); insufficient measures to promote effective access to housing to migrant Roma residing lawfully or working regularly in France (violation of Article 30 + E RESC); breaches in the expulsion procedure of migrant Roma (violation of Article 19§8 + E RESC); French education system not sufficiently accessible (violation of Article 17§2 + E RESC); difficulties of access to health care for migrant Roma, whatever their residence status (violation of Article 11§1 + E RESC); lack of information and awareness-raising and of counseling and screening on health issues towards migrant Roma (violation of Article 11§2 + E RESC); lack of prevention of diseases and accidents of migrant Roma (violation of Article 11§3 + E RESC); lack of medical assistance for migrant Roma lawfully resident or working regularly in France for more than three months (violation of Article 13§1 + E RESC); lack of medical assistance for migrant Roma lawfully resident or working regularly in France for less than three months (violation of Article 13§4). **Follow-up assessment 2018:** Not fully in conformity.

13. European Roma and Travelers Forum (ERTF) v. France, Collective Complaint No. 119/2015, decision on the merits of **5/12/2017**: failure by the authorities to provide the schooling required by the Charter because of repeated evictions, insecure living conditions, particularly with regard to housing, a lack of classes geared to the difficulties encountered by Roma children and transport difficulties (violation of Article 17§2 RESC); discrimination against Roma in access to schooling, to vocational training and to support in access to

employment or employment policy measures (violation of Articles 10§§3 and 5 + E RESC, violation of Article 17§2 + E RESC); lack of access to adequate housing (violation of Article 31 + E RESC); lack of protection against poverty and social exclusion (violation of Article 30 + E RESC).

Greece

14. European Roma Rights Centre v. Greece, Collective Complaint No. 15/2003, decision on the merits of **8/12/2004**: insufficiency of permanent dwellings; lack of temporary stopping facilities; forced eviction and other sanctions of Roma (3 violations of Article 16 of the 1961 ESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018**: Not in conformity.

15. International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (INTERIGHTS) v. Greece, Collective Complaint No. 49/2008, decision on the merits of **11/09/2009**: different situation of Roma families not sufficiently taken into account with the result that a significant number of Roma families continued to live in conditions that failed to meet minimum standards (violation of Article 16 ESC); Roma families continued to be forcibly evicted in breach of the Charter and the legal remedies generally available were not sufficiently accessible to them (violation of Article 16 ESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018**: Not in conformity.

Ireland

16. European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. Ireland, Collective Complaint No. 100/2013, decision on the merits of **1/12/2015**: insufficient provision of accommodation for Travellers (violation of Article 16 RESC); inadequate condition of many Traveler sites (violation of Article 16 RESC); inadequate safeguards for Travelers threatened with eviction under the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 (as amended) (violation of Article 16 RESC); inadequate safeguards for Travelers threatened with eviction under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 (as amended) (violation of Article 16 RESC); evictions carried out in practice without the necessary safeguards (violation of Article 16 RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018**: Not in conformity.

Italy

17. European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. Italy, Collective Complaint No. 27/2004, decision on the merits of **7/12/2005**: insufficiency and inadequacy of camping sites (violation of Article 31§1 + E RESC); forced eviction and other sanctions (violation of Article 31§2 + E RESC); lack of permanent dwellings (violation of Articles 31§1 and 31§3 + E RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018**: Not in conformity.

18. Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) v. Italy, Collective Complaint No. 58/2009, decision on the merits of **25/09/2010**: unsatisfactory situation with regard to the living conditions of Roma and Sinti in camps or similar settlements in Italy (violation of Article 31§1 + E RESC); practice of evicting Roma and Sinti and the violent acts often accompanying such evictions (aggravated violation of Article 31§2 + E RESC); segregation of Roma and Sinti in camps (violation of Article 31§3 + E RESC); discriminatory treatment with

regard to the right to vote or other forms of citizen participation for Roma and Sinti, resulting in marginalisation and social exclusion (violation of Article 30 + E RESC); Roma and Sinti families' lack of access to adequate housing and lack of protection against undue interference in family life (violation of Article 16 + E RESC); use of xenophobic political rhetoric or discourse resulting from direct action by the authorities and leading to stigmatisation of Roma and Sinti (aggravated violation of Article 19§1 + E RESC); unsatisfactory situation with regard to the living conditions of Roma and Sinti in camps or similar settlements in Italy (violation of Article 19§4.c + E RESC); expulsion of the Roma and Sinti (violation of Article 19§8 + E RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018:** Not fully in conformity

Portugal

19. European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. Portugal, Collective Complaint No. 61/2010, decision on the merits of **30/06/2011**: inadequate housing conditions of many Roma, failure by the authorities to take sufficiently into account their specific differences when implementing housing programmes, resulting in discrimination or segregation of Roma (violation of Article 31§1 + E RESC) ; inadequate housing conditions of Roma families (violation of Article 16 + E RESC); lack of an “overall and coordinated approach” of housing programmes (violation of Article 30 + E RESC). **Follow-up assessment 2018:** Not in conformity.

C Complaints relating to social rights of Roma, Sinti, Travelers under examination by the European Committee of Social Rights
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Czech Republic

20. European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC) v. Czech Republic: Collective Complaint No. 157/2017, admissibility decision of **23/01/2018** (*The complainant organisations allege that the Czech Republic has failed to comply with its obligations to refrain from the institutionalisation of young children in particular infants under 3 years of age, and in particular children with disabilities and of Romani origin in violation of Article 17 of the 1961 Charter*).

Italy

21. Amnesty International v. Italy: Collective Complaint No. 178/2019, decision on admissibility and immediate measures of **4/07/2019** (*The complainant organization alleges that the housing situation of Roma and Sinti in Italy is in violation of Article 31 (right of housing), read alone or in conjunction with Article E (non-discrimination), due to the continued perpetration of forced evictions, segregated and substandard housing, and use of discriminatory criteria for the allocation of social housing*). The Committee indicated to the Government the following immediate measures:

- Adopt all possible measures to eliminate the risk of serious and irreparable harm to which the persons evicted and concerned by the present complaint are exposed, in particular:
- to ensure that persons evicted are not rendered homeless;
- to ensure that evictions do not result in the persons concerned experiencing unacceptable living conditions;
- Ensure that all the relevant public authorities are made aware of this decision and inform the Committee without delay of the measures taken to implement it.